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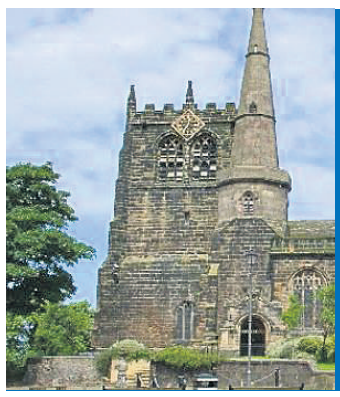

Plug pulled on parish church lights

Postman Steve Rigby delivers Anne's letter.

Special delivery from Sri Lanka!

A VOLUNTEER who spent time with a churchman and his family in Sri Lanka was thrilled when her postman spotted a letter from them in the post – even though it had the wrong address on it!

Mum-of-three Anne Baldwin, 75, a former healthcare professional, retired 15 years ago and since then she has volunteered through a Christian project at a Tibetan camp in Nepal and taught English at the Theological College Lanka in Sri Lanka for three months this summer.

When Anne returned home, Reverend Leslie Dareeju, the Academic Dean at the college, sent her a card hand-made by his children, Sheehan and Shelomi.
Continued inside

MEDAL HONOUR FOR WEST LANCS WAR HERO

Albert, 92, is awarded France's highest accolade

by **Danielle Thompson**

Albert Harrison with his Legion d'Honneur.

A SECOND World War veteran whose mission was to explode enemy mines on the beaches of Normandy during the D-Day landings, has been given a prestigious award for his bravery.

Albert Harrison, 92, from Ormskirk, was presented with the the Legion of Honour for his bravery while serving in the Royal Navy.

The French government announced two years ago that it wanted to recognise selfless acts of heroism displayed by all surviving veterans of the Normandy landings, and of the wider campaigns to liberate France in 1944, by awarding them with the Legion d'Honneur, the highest decoration in France.

This recognition includes troops who landed on and fought their way up the beaches 70 years ago and Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel who operated in support of the landings.

The father of two was a member of a minesweeping crew during the D-Day landing operations on Tuesday, June 6 1944, the largest seaborne invasion in history.

Albert told the Champion: "I worked on a flotilla, a set of 12 boats that all worked together. I was on a landing craft and we loaded 24 huge bombs, dropping them into a carrier which had a handle on one side which we wound up at the end to fire them all off at once, to land in a pattern on the beach.

"We could see the rockets landing in the water and exploding, triggering the mines that were hidden on the sea bed, to clear a path for the troops, who then went up the beach.

"The weather was horrific, so rough, that our landing craft started to sink, but we made sure that all of the bombs were launched. We never knew what was going to happen to us – despite all the preparation and training, there was always uncertainty."

Albert, who is also a grandfather of two, was born in Burscough in 1923 and started work when he was 14. He signed up to the Navy when he was17 years old and completed just 12 weeks of training in Pwllheli in Wales before starting work on landing craft and troop carriers, including taking troops around South African and back up through the Red Sea. ***Continued inside***

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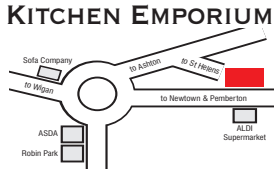

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Campaign launched to tackle domestic violence in borough

by Danielle Thompson

A NEW campaign has been launched to help combat domestic violence after a woman was killed by her partner shortly after they moved away from West Lancs.

The initiative is being led by the Liberty Centre - a women's refuge organisation based in the borough - and West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership at Briars Hall Hotel in Lathom.

The launch will take place on Friday, (November 25).

West Lancashire Borough Council, The West Lancs Liberty Centre and Edge Hill Students Union have put together a new social media campaign entitled 'Make the call. Don't be a bystander.'

The Community Safety Partnership were asked to construct a campaign that encouraged people who were aware that a friend, relative or colleague was suffering from domestic violence, to get support, advice or assistance.

Officers approached the Liberty Centre as a partner to be involved in the campaign.

The recommendation followed a recent domestic homicide review of a woman who was murdered by her partner following an argument, only shortly after they had moved out of West Lancashire.

The campaign hopes to tackle domestic abuse

Borough Councillor Kevin Wright

The review involved numerous West Lancashire organisations due to the couple's origins.

At the launch event, officers from Lancashire Constabulary, the Council and the Liberty Centre will discuss domestic abuse, a parent's view of domestic homicide and the Don't be a Bystander campaign. The Liberty Centre will officially launch the campaign via twitter at noon.

Borough Councillor Kevin Wright, portfolio holder for health and community safety, said "The circumstances behind this campaign are truly tragic, but I am hugely impressed by the campaign and the potential audience for it is massive.

"My thanks go to all the people involved in this innovative campaign, which I am sure will help people get the right advice and support at a difficult time."

The Liberty Centre is a specialist centre for adults who have autism and associated challenging behaviour. For more information, visit dvsswl.org.uk/or follow @libertycentre or @westlancsbc on Twitter.

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Mayor attends centenary celebrations at St Anne's

THE West Lancs Mayor has attended centenary celebrations at St Anne's Church.

Councillor Liz Savage attended the event at St Anne's Social centre, which followed Mass at the church, on Friday, November 18 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church's consecration.

An official consecration sets apart a person, an object or a place for the worship and service of God.

Shown above: Father Godric of St Anne's Church presents a commemorative booklet to West Lancs Mayor Coun Liz Savage at last Friday's event celebrating the Centenary of the Consecration of the church.

With them are Archbishop Malcolm MaMahon (centre right) Father Alban, Irene Slack and Sue Mautus.

World War Two hero Albert, receives Legion d'Honneur

From page 1

After serving in the war, he returned to Ormskirk and met and married his wife Marie, a former munitions worker, at St Anne's Church in Ormskirk in September 1949 – they recently celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary.

He returned to work at the council on their road maintenance department and was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for his services to the council before he retired in 1988.

Albert was sent his medal, officially known as the Insignia of the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur, by the French Honorary Consul last week, They also wrote to tell him that they have now appointed him to the rank of Chevalier in the Ordre Nationale de la Legion d'Honneur.

But despite his awards, Albert has remained very modest. He joked: "... I'm still waiting for my Blue Peter badge!"

It was a miracle, says volunteer Anne after churchman's lost card arrives at her home

From page 1

Unfortunately, the card had the wrong address on it but, luckily for Anne, her eagle-eyed postman Steve Rigby, knew Anne had been staying in Sri Lanka, spotted the stamps and postmark and was able to hand deliver it to the right address.

Anne said: "The card arrived at Ormskirk Royal Mail Sorting Office. My helpful postman, Steve, saw it and realised it could be for me as he knew I had been to Sri Lanka so he made the connection and delivered it to my home!

"It was nothing short of a miracle!"

Cuts to police service are threat to public events, claims councillor

Report by **Henry James**

...even town's Remembrance Day services could be at risk, he warns

A SKELMERSDALE Councillor has expressed his 'deep concern' at the further slashing of police officer numbers in West Lancashire, claiming it could lead to public events being cancelled.

Cllr Terry Devine said the force is continuing to shrink at an alarming rate and he believes there is 'clearly less visible policing on the streets.'

Now he is even concerned for the future of events such as Remembrance Sunday parades.

The councillor, who is West Lancashire Borough Council's Armed Forces Champion, believes cuts to policing numbers is having a detrimental impact on communities and on the ability to carry out public events.

He said: "As Lancashire Constabulary is continuing to pass on the financial cuts of this Government to local policing numbers, I am concerned for the future of our Remembrance Sunday parades, and other community events.

"Already we are seeing re-routing of the Remembrance Sunday marches as a result of the inability of police to close off the roads due to their lack of numbers, and I would worry for the future of our parades and commemorating our fallen heroes.

Councillor Terry Devine

"This is something I and many across West Lancashire feel strongly about that those who have fought and died for our freedom should be commemorated appropriately.

"I will be writing to the Policing Minister to request that increased funding is provided to Lancashire and other Constabularies to ensure there can be adequate police resource at our public events."

Insp June Chessell, of Skelmersdale Police, said: "We are committed to providing a police service that secures and maintains high levels of satisfaction and confidence.

"If the public ring us, we will answer quickly and respond quickly, we will investigate crime proportionately, prioritising those crimes that have the greatest impact on the victim.

"We are working hard to keep people safe and feeling safe, particularly the most vulnerable.

"We will continue to support events including Remembrance Sunday and provide a proportionate level of police support."

Axe falls on funding for parish church Christmas tree

by **Danielle Thompson**

Ormskirk Parish Church

THE CHAIRPERSON of a tenants association in Ormskirk has called on the borough council to continue to fund a Christmas tree outside Ormskirk Parish Church.

Mary Wright, of New Way Tenants Residents Association, says she was 'deeply disappointed' to hear the Christmas tree and lights will not be on this year due to council cuts – and said that it goes against the council's ethos to help promote the town.

However, a spokesperson for the council told the Champion that although they cannot afford to fund the tree, they have donated the lights used each year to the church and welcomed them to fund the Christmas tree themselves – and said that they do a 'huge amount' to promote the town as a tourist hotspot.

Mary Wright said: "How much does a Christmas tree and lights cost? Ormskirk Church is one of only three churches in England to have both a Western tower and a central spire – and the only one to have them both at the same end of the church.

"The Christmas lights have been there for years and is a tradition, residents have been contacting me over their disappointment that the lights will no longer be there. No lights, no people!

"I thought we were supposed to be promoting Ormskirk as a historic market town? It looks like it will be in darkness. Surely a Christmas tree won't break the bank. Merry Christmas, Bah Humbug!"

A spokesperson for West Lancs Borough Council said: "The Council has concentrated its resources on having one central tree in Ormskirk town centre and this is part of a general review of cutting back on Council expenditure.

"The church is aware of our situation and would still be able to put up their own Christmas tree with lights if they wished. We were pleased to be able to give the church the nativity set they have used in previous years on a permanent basis.

"West Lancashire Borough Council does a huge amount of work with partners to promote Ormskirk. This includes supporting many events to bring people into the town such as Ormskirk MotorFest, Love Your local Market Week and the Ormskirk Gingerbread Festival."

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Scouts host festive post scheme

A SCOUT troop are set to host their fourth Christmas post project in Burscough village.

The 29th Burscough Scout Group will be selling their own stamps and advertising their own hand-delivered post in Tesco this Saturday (November 26) and Sunday (November 27). Post boxes and stamps, which cost 30p, will go into local shops on Monday, November 28 for customers to purchase stamps and post their post.

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MP brands local NHS services 'a shambles' during Westminster debate

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

'There would be revolution on the streets if A&E downgrading plans go ahead' warns Pugh

MP John Pugh has branded local NHS decision making in Southport and the surrounding areas as a shambles.

Mr Pugh, who led a debate in the House of Commons on NHS services in Southport, Merseyside and Cheshire on Tuesday, was speaking out after it was revealed there may be future plans to downgrade A&E services in Southport.

The debate was also attended by other local MPs, including Rosie Cooper MP from West Lancashire.

Originally the debate was sparked as a result of the ongoing crises in Southport hospital, which has recently seen the Accident and Emergency services come under risk with the publishing of the new Sustainability and Transformation Plans.

The STPs were written behind closed doors, and ownership of them is unknown and features no democratic accountability.

Prior to the debate Mr Pugh warned 'there would be revolution on the streets' if any downgrading plans were to go ahead.

Mr Pugh said: "I am a veteran of such carrying-ons. Southport has a strong case to keep it's A&E, in part due to the large elderly population of the town.

"Without a 24/7 A&E service in Southport there would be a lot of people suffering a longer and more anxious journey, and that during busy times such as the flower show and air show, it could lead to disaster.

"I want to make it clear to all and sundry that any attempted closure of our A&E would lead to revolution on the streets, be clinically stupid and indefensible in what I fear is a 'behind the scenes' stitch up followed by some phoney consultation when a downgrading plan is in place.

"There's no transparency in these matters and more sharp politics and less accountability at the top of the NHS than ever you will get at Westminster.

"Southport is a town with a large elderly population, a reducing number of permanent GPs but if it suits local NHS bosses and the current government it could still see a sharp reduction in services.

"It would not be sensible or fair to let us take the brunt of NHS cuts and savings but it could happen.

"We are especially vulnerable as the management of the hospital has been in turmoil for over a year and we lack a voice at the closed NHS meetings when the real decisions get made."

A petition has recently been set up to oppose any downgrading of Southport Hospital A&E services. *See picture above*

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Virgin Care to take over NHS community health services

Report by **Henry James**

NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has announced that Virgin Care have won the bid to provide community health services and urgent care services in the borough.

Billionaire Richard Branson's healthcare group will take over the services from April 1, 2017 with local health chiefs stressing that all services commissioned with the private company will continue to be delivered as part of the NHS and will remain free at the point of contact.

The contract to run community services is estimated to be worth in the region of £9m per annum, and the contract for urgent care services is about £4m per annum.

But the decision to choose a private health company has been met with anger by West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper.

Slamming the move, the Labour MP told the Champion that the choice is a 'slap in the face' to NHS providers and to residents who had opposed a private health company running NHS services.

However, bosses at the local healthcare commissioner say they have "evaluated and moderated" the bids received and followed a "stringent" procurement process which adheres to national guidance to select the successful provider.

The existing provider of these services is Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.

The CCG's vision for joined up care, known as Building for the Future, aims, they claim, to help everyone, especially the older population and those living with long-term conditions.

Health chiefs say the scheme wants people to be more in control of their own health,' have better access to health services and receive co-ordinated support tailored to their own personal needs.'

Urgent care services in West Lancashire include: walk-in centres and GP out of hours services. Community health services include district nurses. community matrons and stroke and cardiac rehabilitation.

Claire Heneghan, chief nurse of NHS West Lancashire CCG, said: "This process is about transforming care locally and is a major positive step forward for West Lancashire.

"The aim is to develop and enhance community and local walk-in and out of hour's services, helping to prevent avoidable acute hospital attendance, relieving pressure on such a vital resource.

"We will continue to enable and support the local hospital to do what it does best, in addressing the needs of those residents who need acute and specialist care. Our local hospital will continue to be a major part of local health services and will remain integral as we move towards achieving our vision for joined up care."

'Virgin Care demonstrated a true understanding of our vision'

Claire Heneghan, chief nurse of NHS West Lancs CCG

'If people are failed because of West Lancashire CCG's decision then I will expect those responsible for this awful decision to be offering their resignations'

Rosie Cooper West Lancs MP

Dr John Caine, chair of the CCG, added: "Through the bid Virgin Care demonstrated a true understanding of our vision and we are assured it will deliver a quality service for our local community within this new model of care.

"Virgin Care will now work closely with the existing provider Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust in the run up to delivering the services from April 1 2017. The CCG and Virgin Care will also be talking to the local community about their plans and welcoming views during this next phase of the process.

"Although this is a change in the provider, patients will still receive safe, quality treatment and care during this period of transition."

A spokesperson for Virgin Care said: "We look forward to continuing our engagement with the local community in West Lancashire so we can provide a high quality service that has been shaped by the people who use it."

But MP Rosie Cooper believes the decision is "a slap in the face" to local NHS providers and to the strength of residents' opposition to the privatisation of their health services.

The MP said: "This entire process has been conducted without sufficient openness and transparency and without any obvious consideration to the future of Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.

"The CCG have ignored the thousands of West Lancashire residents who expressed their opposition to a private company running frontline health services by signing petitions, campaigning and asking questions.

"Now the contract has been awarded it is time for the CCG to open the books on this entire process.

"If people are failed because of West Lancashire CCG's decision then I will expect those responsible for this awful decision to be offering their resignations. My message to the people of West Lancashire is simple. If these services fail you, let me know!"

VIRGIN Care's mission statement on their website reads: "We provide frontline NHS and social care services across the country.

"Since 2006 we've treated more than seven million people providing care good enough for our families.

"Our aim is to make a real difference to people's lives by offering NHS and social care services that are:

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Coffee at church!

A CHRISTMAS themed coffee event is being held to raise funds for a church in Mawdesley.

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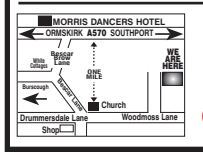

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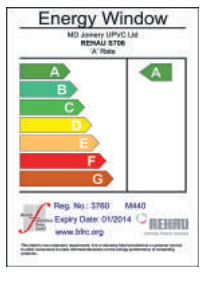

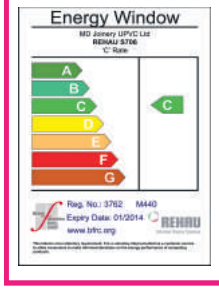

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Business accused of pocketing public funds in salon training 'scam'

Report by **Lynda Roughley**

FRAUDSTERS pocketed hundreds of thousands of pounds of government money earmarked to help small and medium businesses on Merseyside, a court has heard.

The Skillswork fund was intended to help such companies grow and prosper by paying for training but it was "also ripe for fraud" by those riding roughshod over strict rules designed to prevent such dishonesty, said David Potter, prosecuting.

In the dock at Liverpool Crown Court are two men and a woman who allegedly targeted the local hair and beauty industry.

"Numerous hair and tanning salons, barber shops and nail bars across Merseyside were 'tapped up' for training on the seemingly irresistible promise that all the training would be free," he claimed.

The trio pretended to provide training to businesses which was either not provided at all or added people who did not attend - ghost attendees - and/or exaggerated the number of days on which training was provided.

They also charged excessively for training, alleged Mr Potter. The businesses were supposed to pay 40% of the training costs with the remainder going to the training company but to get their hands on that 60% of the grant funded subsidy the fraudsters covered the 40% themselves pretending the firms had stumped it up.

Jodie Foster was sole proprietor of Time Training when the offending began in March 2008 and was "firmly connected" with Graham Stewart, her then partner, and Stephen Konetske, a close friend and business partner of Stewart.

Foster, 39, of Lindens, Loughton, Essex denies two fraudulent trading offences; Stewart, 43, of Deauville Road, Aintree denies fraudulent trading and aiding and abetting Foster, and Konetske,46, of Holt Coppice, Aughton, near Ormskirk, denies one fraudulent trading offence.

The jury heard that Time Training became Time Training Ltd in May 2008 and all three defendants "as directors, engaged in fraudulent trading," claimed Mr Potter. The companies were "paid handsomely" by the fund admininstrators.

"As a result of their fraudulent activity a huge amount of public money was paid over to Time Training, in both its guises, for training that was either non-existent, grossly overpriced or fraudulently obtained."

Mr Potter said that the first charge involving Foster and Stewart spanned only two months and yet in that time alone Time Training secured Skillswork payments totalling £250,000.

He told the jury that it caused concern at the North West Training Council, that fraud may be afoot.

Both Foster and Konetske attended salons to sign up clients for training and Konetske "was adept at persuading some of the salons to accept transfers into their accounts which were then paid back to Time Training to give the thinnest of veneers that the clients were indeed making a 40% contribution towards their training costs."

They operated a bank account which was "a buffer" account through which money from Time Training Ltd was credited to the accounts of hair salon owners who were then asked to write a cheque to the Skillswork fund holders who would then authorise the training which Time Training would then invoice.

Stewart, who was only a director between June 2008 and March 2009 provided Foster funds to get the fraudulent scheme up and running.

Between 12 August 2008 and November 15, 2011 Time Training Ltd received credits totalling £746,344, including £156,454 from one of the fund holders, St Helens College.

That money went into the company's bank account - though the corporation tax returns for the two years ending May 2010 showed a turnover of just £459,000.

A further £511,790 went into Foster's other Time Training account.

Mr Potter said that the Skillswork scheme ran from 2007 to January 2011.

The trial is ongoing.

Somewhere over the rainbow...

AN amateur photographer from Omrksirk showed his true colours when he snapped this stunning rainbow over the town last week.

Champion reader Tony Johnson, from Hilltop Walk, took the impressive, atmospheric photograph of a rainbow stretching over the town with a backdrop of a very dark sky, appearing to finish over Ormskirk Parish Church on Church Street.

He joked: "I really hope that Ormskirk Parish Church found their pot of gold!"

Debt Advice centre is on the move

WEST Lancs Debt Advice centre has moved to Emmanuel Methodist Reformed Church on the corner of Derby Street and Stanley Street in Ormskirk.

The free debt advice service is now sited at the back of the building in the Langham Hall extension. Debt experts will be holding sessions from 7 to 9pm on Mondays and alternative Saturdays from 9.30am to 11.30am as well as drop-in sessions from1 to 4pm on Thursdays.

Trained volunteers provide confidential advice and practical support, working with clients to help resolve debt issues and set up affordable repayment plans.

The service can be reached by calling 07731 482120 or emailing debtadvice@wlda.org.uk

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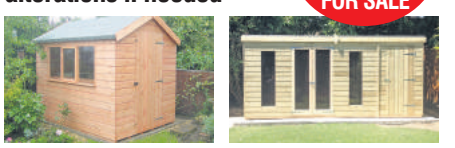

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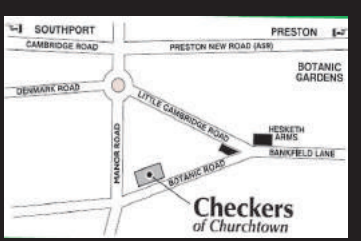

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West Lancs Mayor Coun Liz Savage and members of Base Dance Academy who performed at their Malt House Court studios and the Children in Need event at Ormskirk's Civic Hall last Friday.

Dance-athon boost for Children In Need

A CRAFT fair, dance performances and free rides at a railway are just some of the events that have been held in West Lancs to raise funds for the UK's biggest charity, Children in Need.

Talented young dancers kicked off fundraising when they put on performances at two Children in Need events in Ormskirk at the weekend. Dancers from Base Dance Academy, who are based at the Malt House Court studios performed at their own studios as well as in front of more than 100 guests at a charity craft fair to raise funds for Children in Need at the Civic in Ormskirk in front of the West Lancs Mayor, Councillor Liz Savage on Friday, November 18.There were also stalls at the Malt House Court Studios.

Councillor Liz Savage also joined the charity's mascot Pudsey at West Lancashire Light Railway in Hesketh Bank on Sunday where free train rides were being run in exchange for donations towards the Children in Need appeal.

Since 1980, when it began, Children in Need has raised more than £600million for disabled children and young people in the UK.

Pudsey and Cllr Liz Savage

Memorial service to honour 'forgotten' soldier from Lathom

A SERVICE of commemoration will be held for a soldier from Lathom who died in the Second World War but whose name was missed off from the village's war memorials.

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

Private Sydney Turner, who lived on Square Lane and served in the Argyll Sutherland Highlanders Battalion died on November, 28, 1942 in Tunisia.

He was reported missing in November 1942 and as his body was never recovered, his name was recorded on the Medej el Bab Memorial in Tunisia in North Africa– but it was not commemorated on the Burscough and Lathom war memorials nor within the church that his family are buried at, St John the Baptist in Burscough.

On Monday, November 28 at 2pm, a service of commemoration will be conducted by Reverend Ian Jones, the curate at St John the Baptist – on the 74th anniversary of his death. The West Lancs Mayor, Councillor Liz Savage, will be attending the event.

Local historian Richard Houghton explained that earlier this year Private Turner's family's broken gravestone was found in the graveyard, bearing the names of his mother Ruth Turner, who died in 1928 and his father, David, who died in 1936 – meaning that he only outlived his own parents by six years.

"His name was also added, stating 'Their loving son Sydney A.S.H missing in Africa 1942. He was survived by his two sisters, Hilda Jane Turner and Jessie Turner.'"

Richard added: "Sydney Turner enlisted in the Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regt confirmed by his service number and is likely to have transferred to the Argyll Sunderland Highlanders Battalion following the loss of many of the 51st Highland Division when they were forced to surrender to Rommel.

"Research has revealed that he was reported missing on November 28, 1942 at a fierce action at a location known as Bald Hill and Green Hill en route to an objective known as Mateur to seize a crossroads held by German forces.

The War Memorial

"This battle was eventually to be known as the Battle of Longstop (Hill), which has taken on significant historical status."

A representation has been made to add Private Turner's name to the Lathom and Burscough war memorial.

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Lancashire Day to be celebrated in music and poetry

LANCASHIRE Day celebrations including a concert and a traditional hot pot supper are being held in Lathom.

The music and poetry event is being held at 7.30pm at the Ring O'Bells on Sunday, November 27, fronted by Mark Dowding and Sid Calderbank, who are collectively known as Tacklers' Tales.

Entry is free and food will be available to buy including Lancashire beers and hot pot.

Mark and Sid have been performing songs about their native Lancashire for many years and both have been asked to appear on radio and TV programmes to discuss historical aspects of Lancashire life illustrated by the songs and ballads written about various events. Lancashire Day is the county day of historic Lancashire. It is held on November 27 to commemorate the day in 1295 when Lancashire first sent representatives to Parliament, to attend the Model Parliament of King Edward I.

Lancashire Day was first held in 1996 and it is observed with the loyal toast to 'The Queen, Duke of Lancaster' and is celebrated within the county palatine. The day is marked throughout the historic county by town criers announcing the Lancashire Day proclamation which declares the historic regions boundaries of the county, and finishes with 'God bless Lancashire, and God save the Queen, Duke of Lancaster.'

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Ormskirk Bus Station

Plans stepped up to redevelop town's bus station

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

THE first steps have been taken to redevelop Ormskirk Bus Station.

West Lancashire Borough Council, who own the bus station and car park, think the site has potential to contribute to the regeneration of the town centre.

It is recognised that the site is currently unattractive as a key gateway for visitors to Ormskirk town centre, and that there is a need provide an improved bus station and enhanced pedestrian links between the town centre, the bus and railway stations.

It is recognised through the Town Centre strategy that the whole site is in need of improvement.

Lancashire County Council has committed some funding to upgrade the bus station element of any scheme which has enabled the borough council to review the opportunity to redevelop the site.

It is hoped to deliver a mixed use scheme that will contribute appropriately to the town centre, including a modern, fit for purpose, bus station facility.

The project is known as the 'Moor Street Gateway.'

Alongside the redevelopment of the bus station site, the council will also be looking to work with Network Rail to improve the pedestrian link to the train station. Earlier this month, the council's cabinet agreed that steps be taken to secure a development partner to make proposals to the Borough Council for consideration. Uses should complement a new bus station and the wider area including commercial, cultural, residential, employment and leisure uses.

Councillor Ian Moran, West Lancashire Borough Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration, said: "I am delighted that progress is being made in this very important scheme for Ormskirk. The finished project will have a hugely positive impact on the town centre."

Any future scheme would need to comply with the policies set out in the West Lancashire Local Plan and contribute positively to the town centre. The open nature of a procurement process enables a variety of schemes to be put forward for consideration and for the most appropriate scheme for the site and Ormskirk to be achieved.

The procurement exercise has now been started but will take several months to complete.

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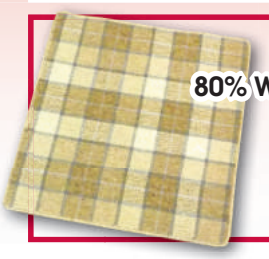

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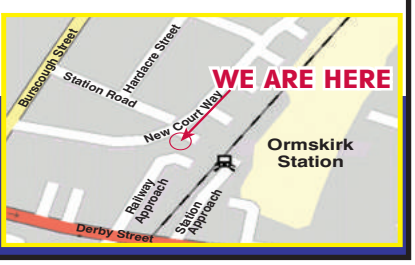

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Residents have their say on new kids playground

How the Mere Avenue playground looks now

BURSCOUGH residents are being invited to check out the designs and give feedback on a new play area at Mere Avenue Playground.

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

Burscough Parish Council are holding the viewing event at The Grove Youth and Community Centre on Station Approach from 2-6pm on Wednesday, November 30 and are inviting local families to help them to choose the best design for new play equipment.

Contractors who wish to be considered for the work have provided display materials for their proposed designs, and as part of the tender process, members of the public are invited to comment.

Residents were initially consulted on the project to upgrade the play area almost 12 months ago, and the comments they put forward were included in the tender brief.

The playground's current play equipment, which although kept in good repair, is costing more and more each year to maintain due to its age and is ready for replacement. They will replace it with a design which is easy and low-cost to maintain,helping to make it more affordable in the future.

Councilor Julie Atherton, chair of Capital Projects at the Parish Council, said: "We hope that as many residents as possible can attend the event. We are keen to get your feedback so that we know we are updating the park to meet the needs of our children. We are investing in the park to ensure our children continue to feel safe whilst having fun.

"It is also a green space for adults to sit and enjoy a lovely oasis in a busy world. Please tell us what you think of the new designs. The funding we have secured for this project must be used wisely. Let's get it right with your help!"

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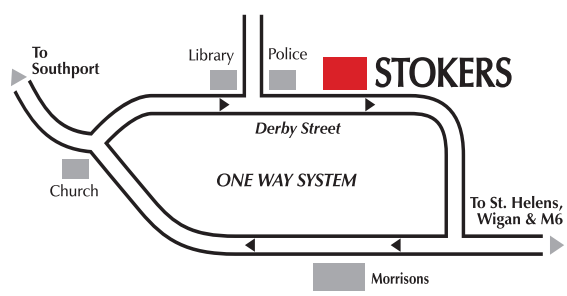

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Students at the Tate!

EDGE Hill University students are being given the chance to work alongside leading artists as part of a new project at Tate Liverpool.

The new programme brings together international artists alongside partner organisations and members of the public, and Edge Hill is one of the Founding Associate organisations working with Tate Liverpool on the project.

Edge Hill's animation students will launch the Tate Exchange Liverpool programme at the gallery on Saturday, November 26. Inspired by the gallery's autumn Yves Klein exhibition and the artist's interest in Judo, their work will see the movements of live judo artists captured on camera. In an adjacent workshop, students will turn these images into animations to be projected within the space.

On Saturday, December 3, Edge Hill's Creative Writing department brings three leading international poets, Niall McDevitt (Ireland), Maung Day (Myanmar) and Edge Hill Creative Writing lecturer Dr James Byrne (England) to the Tate Exchange Liverpool space. They will create poetic responses to Tate Liverpool's free display Tracey Emin & William Blake in Focus.

Then on Saturday, December 10, 45 performing arts students will bring al dance performance lasting five hours to the gallery.

Looking ahead to February, artists including Edge Hill Professor Vicky Karkou will take over the space for a week-long programme of new collaborative work and discussions focusing on the exchange of ideas between different creative fields.

Cathy Butterworth, arts manager at Edge Hill University said: "Tate Exchange Liverpool is a fantastic, ground-breaking project and we're delighted that Edge Hill is playing such a significant part in it."

App homes in on council finances

THE West Lancashire element of the council tax bill has risen by 18.9 per cent in real terms since 1996-97.

That's according to the TaxPayers' Alliance 2016 report which can be found on the pressure group's new free app.

It also shows borough councillors were paid a basic allowance of £4,842 and the leader received an additional £12,105 in 2014-15.

The cost to the council of paying the allowances was £324,854 and the cost of paying councillors, including their expenses was £329,201.

People who download the app will also be able to find out that between 2013 and 2015, West Lancashire paid out £103,659 in compensation costs to various parties.

The app has been designed by the TaxPayers Alliance to give people more clarity over council finances, and also helps them find out what the council owns, even revealing such things as works of art owned by local authorities, although in the case of West Lancs, the council doesn't appear to have any, at least according to the app.

The app even reveals that West Lancashire gave trade unions the use of 220 square foot of office space in 2014, the most-up-to-date year.

The TaxPayers' Alliance have released a new mobile App

John O'Connell, chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance has said that anyone with a smartphone or tablet can now examine the performance of their own council and decide for themselves if councils are delivering value for taxpayers' hard earned money."

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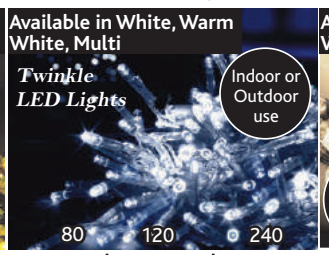

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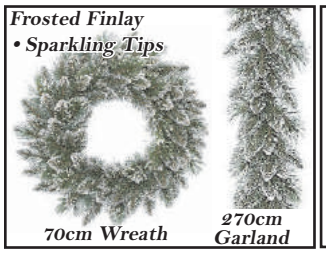

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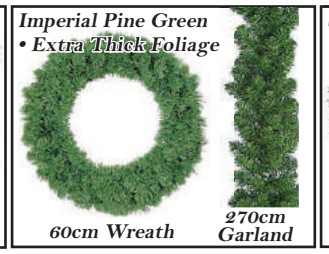

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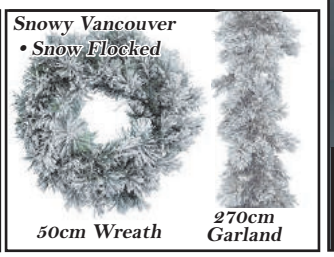

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

I'll be returning my green bin!

WITH regard to the council's decision to charge tenants £30 for emptying the green compost bins next year.

I was surprised and embarrassed when these councillors were asked, what plans will be in place with regard to the collection of the £30. No reply!

They were asked if the garden waste they collect and passed on to recycling firms, who turn it into compost, paid them for it, still no reply

As a retired gardener by profession, and still a keen gardener I will return the green wheelie bin to the council, make a one off payment for a compost bin and make it my own!

People who decided this should think about the economical repercussions of this decision - the bins will be returned and tenants will just dump any garden waste on the nearest open land.

Chris Grogan
Skelmersdale

Repeat prescriptions worry: message is 'phone your doctors surgery and ask for help...'

The Champion printed an article from the West Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) a couple of weeks ago about the new government scheme for saving money on the NHS bill for drugs which is being trialled in West Lancs.

The proposed plans aim to change how people get their prescriptions for much-needed repeat medications, and in the process to cut out 'waste'.

Basically, residents who need repeat prescriptions are being told they can no longer get these directly through their local chemist, and instead will now have to travel to the doctors' surgery each time unless they can deal with this on-line.

After hearing concerns of residents who would struggle to get to the doctor's surgery and were not able either to re-order their medication on-line, I contacted the local CCG.

The CCG responded with assurances that they would be working with local chemists to identify and support those 'vulnerable' patients.

However, I'm still hearing of people struggling and chemists are saying there are potentially many patients in this situation.

So I have checked with the CCG again and I am writing to alert your readers to the present comments from them: firstly that they will be using their computer system to alert them to any patients who have failed to order a repeat prescription they normally take, and secondly that doctor's surgeries will step in to help those who cannot move to the new system.

So it seems that the message at the moment to those concerned about how they will get their repeat prescriptions is to phone the doctors' surgery and ask for help.

County Councillor Cynthia Dereli

Why can't the council keep a true record of student homes?

WHY is the council letting so many student HMOS in Ormskirk – especially when we are trying to save money, and for everyone they allow we receive no council tax?

At the moment we are trying to save money and charge residents an extra £30 for green bins.

So for every student-let HMO we receive less council tax to pay for services!

After my first letter to query this, my reply was that the council get nothing out of this. Then after a second letter asking for a breakdown of how many student HMOs there are in the town and why our money is being wasted, the reply I got from John Harrison Director of Development and Regeneration has now informed me the council keep a data base of HMOs but does not distinguish between student use and non student use.

Therefore, the council do not even know how much money the taxpayer is losing for every HMO in Ormskirk!

He also goes on to say that the green bin charge would be implemented to all households without exemption, therefore the council would only collect green bins who have opted 'in' and paid the charge!

I cannot believe in this time of austerity that the council are not keeping a record of student HMOs and still allowing many more (although at a percentage!) which is losing this area council tax amounting to a lot of money.

This has to be bad management - surely this is the first thing you would stop to make us all money? I'm sure it would be, if it was coming out of their own wallets!

Christine Spencer,
Ormskirk, (by email)

What is happening to our market town?

IT has come to light that greedy landlords have increased the business rates in Ormskirk and this has now forced a leading public charity, Age UK, to have no other option but to close down in the coming weeks.

This is a charity shop working hard with volunteers to help raise funds for our older people in society, many vulnerable and alone

Why is this happening to our market town here in Ormskirk?

Perhaps it is to make way for more late night bars who can cash in again from students who are flooding into the town?

Who knows, but clearly rent or tax rate rises is something the local council should be monitoring on behalf of the Community.

Do charities count for so little, or does charity begin at home West Lancashire Borough Council?

MH,
Ormskirk resident

PICTURE of the week

Seagulls take a break from their airborne activities over the cool waters of Southport's Marine Lake. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Primary concern of council should be permanent residents of town

I must write in response to last week's heartbreaking letter from Ruth Beaumont.

I would love to hear a response from either the council or the police, (preferably both) to certain issues.

What, I wonder, is the benefit to the council to allow so much of the town's housing to become HMO's.

Does the fee for the licence to convert these premises outweigh, or even compensate for the loss of Council Tax that they would otherwise attract.

Do any businesses, other that half a dozen bars, a couple of major supermarkets and bargain shops, or charity shops, actually benefit from the term-time influx of our transient student residents?

Have the parking laws been waived, especially in and around Ruff Lane, to allow dozens of vehicles to park on double yellow lines, or even on the pavements and pedestrian areas?

Does nobody care that the sons and daughters of long term residents of Ormskirk, have little or no chance of getting onto the property ladder, because so many of the town's small terraced houses have been converted into student accommodation?

I realise that these issues have all been raised before on this page, but it still staggers me that nothing seems to have been done to alleviate the problems faced by so many residents.

I would have thought that the primary concern of the council, should be to the permanent residents of the town, who actually pay for the services provided.

I daresay, that Edge Hill University make a contribution in the form of rates etc. but it seems to many residents, that the university has actually bought the town!

SJ Nimmo,
Ormskirk

Information wanted on history of Water Tower

I am collecting information on the history of the Tower Hill allotments in Ormskirk, which are situated next to the Water Tower.

I believe that the allotments may have been there from about 1945.

If anyone has any information about how the allotments came to be there or any stories, photos or documents relating to the early days of the Water Tower site I would love to hear from you at towerhillallotment@gmail.com.

Alison Wall
Secretary to Tower Hill Allotment Society

‘Quit Squad’ warn of smoking dangers

A SPECIAL ‘Quit Squad’ is calling on people who smoke in West Lancashire to give up the vice.

Report by **Henry James**

The anti smoking health team from Lancashire NHS services want residents to understand that by smoking, they are significantly increasing their risk of developing chronic pulminary disease (COPD)

COPD defines a number of lung conditions that make it difficult to empty air out of the lungs due to the narrow airways.

COPD often develops when the lungs are exposed to cigarette smoke, with people over 35 who smoke the most likely to develop the disease.

The Quit Squad, which is delivered by Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust and funded by Lancashire County Council, is encouraging people who smoke, to contact the service in order to get the best benefit from free specialist advice.

People are up to four times more likely to quit with the help of stop smoking aids combined with specialist help and support.

Helen Hatcher from the Quit Squad at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust said: “COPD is estimated to be the third leading cause of death in the world by 2030, with smoking the main risk factor associated to the condition.

“We recognise that many people do not know what COPD is and part of the service we provide is to inform our service users of the risks and highlight the health costs of smoking.

“Quit Squad have age testing monitors which we use with service users who have potentially developed COPD.

The monitors we use do not diagnose COPD however do indicate the need for further testing resulting in early diagnosis or reassuring the client that at the present time COPD has not developed.

“We are really looking forward to World COPD Day and want to use it as an opportunity for health professionals within our service to engage with people and positively influence their choices.

As an advisor, it is such a reward when someone successfully quits smoking. It is a great feeling to know we have helped someone on to the pathway to better quality of life.”

Some of the symptoms of COPD include:

- Shortness of breath through everyday tasks
- A long lasting cough
- Producing more sputum or phlegm than usual
- Wheezing in cold weather

If you have symptoms of COPD or would like more information on quitting please telephone 0800 3286297, visit www.quit-squad.nhs.uk, or follow the Quit Squad on Twitter @LancashireCare #QuitSquad.

People who wish to refer themselves to the Quit Squad can do so by telephoning the above number or completing the Quit Squad Self-Referral Form that can be found on the home page of the Quit Squad website.

The Quit Squad offers drop-in clinics one-to-one sessions and group sessions in the community.

Wharf’s festive lights set for big switch on

BURSCOUGH residents and visitors to the village, can enjoy the Christmas lights switch on at the Wharf, this Friday (November 25).

By **Danielle Thompson**

The festive fun will begin in the courtyard at 4.45pm with musical entertainment from the Ukes at the Wharf and local duo Alex and Livvy Karalius. Throughout the evening visitors will be able to enjoy seasonal street food including a hog roast, crepes, hot-dogs and mulled wine.

For the youngsters there will be live reindeer and the chance to sit in Santa’s sleigh and meet his elves and a free visit to Santa in his grotto on the first floor of the Arts Centre where children can have their pictures taken by resident photographers Fat Badger, and receive a special gift!

Burscough Wharf’s site manager, Ray Eckersley said: “We’re excited about this year’s Christmas fun, we have had many new outlets opening up recently, including a new sweet shop – the Candy Chest, a hair extensions salon – Blush and most recently a new cocktail bar - Jack & Gin, so there’s going to be a great atmosphere.

“The lights will be switched on at 6.30pm by our Christmas fairies so we’re encouraging families to come along and join our festive celebrations.”

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Council tenants urged to get more involved in housing issues

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancashire Borough Council tenants are being encouraged by the authority to become involved in housing issues to help improve services.

Council chiefs say the local authority has a strong record of tenant involvement over many years and wants to continue to have tenants involved and hear their views.

It has introduced a new model for tenant involvement, which involves engaging tenants in different ways.

Around 200 tenants are already involved in the 'Your Voice' consultation group, through which they complete surveys, either by post or online about housing and community issues.

Further work is planned to increase this number as the borough council currently provides more than 6,000 homes for tenants.

Feedback exercises with people living in council accommodation through surveys and other measures will be carried out to help review areas for service improvement.

Digital communication will be used to reach a wider range of people, including younger and working tenants.

Staff will look to forge a closer working relationship with ward councillors and parish councillors to help address more local housing issues.

They will also look to attend council and partner organisations activities such as local events at community centres to better engage with tenants.

The Landlord Services Committee (LSC) and Tenant Scrutiny Group (TSG) will continue to operate to help scrutinise housing services to maintain standards and help make them even better.

Councillor Jenny Patterson

Councillor Jenny Patterson, cabinet member for housing and landlord services, said: "Feedback has shown that tenants are not really interested in attending formal meetings, which is something other housing providers have also experienced, so we are concentrating on engaging our tenants by other methods which suit their needs.

"By making it easier for tenants to engage with us and using this information to drive service improvements and changes, it is hoped that tenants will feel more satisfied with services and how they interact with us.

"Our new approach also offers better value for money in terms of our work involving tenants in housing."

Working to deliver housing that meets the needs of local people, including affordable housing, and aiming to be a top performing landlord are important priorities in the borough's Council Plan.

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Opticians walk the extra mile for charity

Group raise £2.3k for Cancer Research

By **Danielle Thompson**

A GROUP of opticians have been celebrating after raising more than £2,300 for a national charity.

A team of 13 from the Specsavers Ormskirk branch took on the challenge and raised an impressive £1,335 for Cancer Research - before their total was boosted by very generous customer, William Thelwell who popped into the store to give them a cheque of an additional £1,000 for their efforts, taking them to a total of £2,335.

The staff walked almost five million steps in one month as part of the national charity's Walk All Over Cancer campaign.

Retail director Natalie Simm said: "We couldn't believe it when our customer William Thelwell came into store to hand us the cheque.

"We are so incredibly grateful for the donation, and all of the support we have received from customers, friends and families. Our target was £500 so we are overwhelmed with the final figure.

"We're really proud of what we have achieved as a community and would like to thank everyone again for getting behind such a great cause."

Specsavers Ormskirk's retail director Natalie Simm and winner Keale Fishwick

They also held a competition in store for the chance to win a pair of designer glasses by guessing the total number of steps they took, charging £1 per entry, which was won by Ormskirk resident Keale Fishwick, eight, who guessed 4,904,780 steps.

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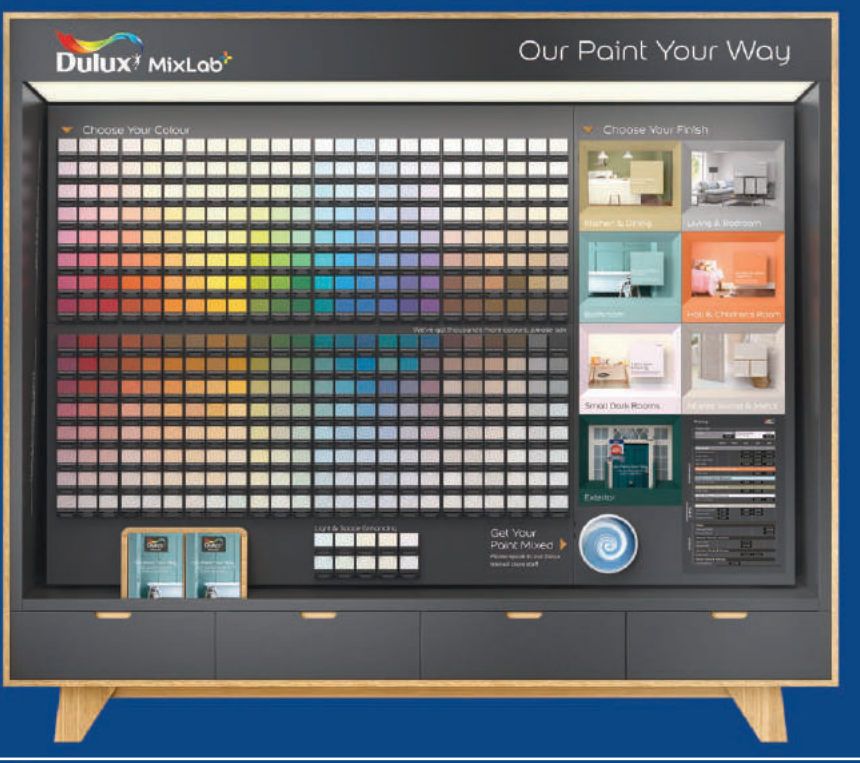

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Do you want to save money and stay warm this winter?

The Dreaded Winter Switch On

We are all sad to wave the summer goodbye. Gone are the breezy bright days of hanging our washing on the line and opening our windows at night to let in a soft breeze. We now look forward to the cold winter days and nights with our heating on full blast to dry off our clothes and keep our homes snug and warm, but at what cost?

In a typical UK household 60% of our fuel bills are spent on providing heating in our home. As heating accounts for more than half of our energy bills surely there is something we can do to save money on this while still keeping our homes warm and comfortable throughout the harsh winter ahead. We personally are great supporters of the household bill payer who is still refusing to turn that boiler dial on and crank up the thermostat "Do you have a jumper on? No well there you go then," however there comes a time when we can no longer avoid this as winter sets in and the days and nights become bitter. Bring on the dreaded Switch on (no not the Christmas lights the central heating)

Take your boiler out for a spin

Like a car that has been left out for a while in a garage or up a drive, we fire it up and take it for a much needed spin. We give it what it needs, oil, petrol just a bit of TLC. What we never consider is our boilers are exactly the same. After months of being sidelined, they are then fired up and expected to heat our homes efficiently and as cost effectively as possible throughout the winter months.

Maintaining your boiler and heating system annually ensures it is running to its full potential and can avoid any unexpected breakdown costs. Even if you think your boiler is running fine and in good working order, by having an annual service this could avoid costly replacements of parts by ensuring they are maintained and kept in good working order.

Boiler services are usually an inexpensive way to make sure you are getting the most from your heating system and help you save money on your energy bills. Make sure a professional gas engineer listed in the gas safe register services your boiler.

An efficient heating system including heating controls can save you up to £350 per year. If your boiler is old and not running effectively this could be wasting your money and could also potentially become unsafe.

How you can help yourself

- **Checking Radiators for cold spots** - Cold spots indicate trapped air, trapped air puts extra strain on your heating system preventing your heating from working efficiently. 'Bleeding' your radiators will release this trapped air ridding of any cold spots.
- **Check the Pressure** - Boilers loose pressure over time, which can cause them to run inefficiently. Check your boilers pressure gauge and top it up (refer to your boilers manual)
- **Heating controls** - If correctly installed and set up can save you between £75- £155 per year. A good tip to keep in mind is by setting your room thermostat one degree lower can save you £80-£85 per year
- **Thermostatic Radiator Valves (or TRV'S**) - these are fitted to your radiators and allow you to turn the heat of the radiator up or down. This is an easy way to heat each room accordingly, saving you money.

For advice on any of our services or to speak to a Gas Safe Engineer call

Catalyst Energy 0151 372 0071

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GAS safe REGISTER

New flood warning scheme to protect West Lancs nears completion

Cars struggle on the A59 in Ormskirk after Boxing Day floods

MP Rosie Cooper has welcomed the news that an early-warning system for flooding in Ormskirk is nearing completion.

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

The new system, being created by the Environment Agency will see Hurlston and Sandy Brook in Ormskirk monitored and warnings giving residents time to prepare and protect their homes.

Rain gauges around Ormskirk will monitor rainfall. This will enable the EA to set rainfall alerts. They are also aiming to have monitoring of the brook located on Dyers Lane. Again there will be alerts based on the level of the brook.

Using the monitoring information will enable the EA to develop flood forecasts to provide more accurate and timely warnings. The warnings will also give an indication of possible surface water flooding. The new system will provide greater coverage across Ormskirk and not just be restricted to areas affected by river flooding.

The Environment Agency plan to have a full flood warning system in place from late February.

Ms Cooper said: "This is a very welcome development in improving how the emergency response to flood threats gives residents a chance to prepare.

"It is an example of how agencies and communities can and should be working together.

"Many Ormskirk residents' homes have been hit by floods on a number of occasions. Improving the warning systems for all residents is one of the ways agencies need to get smarter to better protect local communities."

Residents will be able to sign up to receive warnings by phone call, text and email.

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Council warns 'dogs aren't just for Christmas'

WITH the festive season just around the corner some people may be considering buying a dog as a gift, but West Lancashire Borough Council is urging prospective pet owners that a dog is for life not just for Christmas.

The borough council has important advice for anyone considering buying a dog as a gift. A pet pooch can become a great part of any family, but owners have a lot of responsibilities.

Councillor Kevin Wright, cabinet member for health and community safety, said: "Owning a pet is a long-term commitment and shouldn't be taken lightly.

"People should remember a dog is for life, not just for Christmas. By law you must be a responsible dog owner. If you follow our advice your pet will be a friend for life, and not just a novelty gift."

Dog ownership can be expensive and your new pet could live for 15 years or more. Costs include food, insurance, toys, a collar with tag, a lead, and training classes as well as the cost of the dog.

Your dog should have a balanced diet and access to water at all times. Veterinary care is essential, including vaccinations, worming and flea treatments. Groom, and check pets' teeth, ears and nails on a regular basis for any potential problems.

A dog owner's main responsibility is to provide a loving home for their pet. They should consider that leaving the dog alone at home for long periods could result in it barking loudly, which may disturb neighbours. Dogs need to be safe, well-behaved with people and other animals. Owners should look into training their pooch.

Dogs also need time and attention. Some breeds will need more mental stimulation and exercise than others, or they may become destructive.

By law, owners must keep their dog under control at all times and prevent it from being a nuisance to others. A dog must be clearly identified, wearing a collar and tag with the name and address of its owner, and since April 6 it has been law to have your dog microchipped.

People thinking about buying a dog for Christmas should consider which dog – if any – would suit their family and lifestyle. They should ask friends about their dogs, and find out more about the breeds they like.

Potential owners should consider that some dogs can be more aggressive than others. Neutering a dog can have health, financial and behavioural benefits. Unneutered dogs can display unwanted sexual behaviour and aggression. Neutering could encourage calmer, more predictable behaviour which makes them a more suitable family pet.

Those considering buying a pedigree dog should only go to a reputable, licensed breeder and avoid puppy farms and backyard breeders. Why not log onto the RSPCA's website www.rspca.org.uk for more information. This could help you avoid being a victim of the puppy trade.

For more information about the council's role and responsibilities with regard to dogs visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/dogs.

Dogs are not just Christmas gifts

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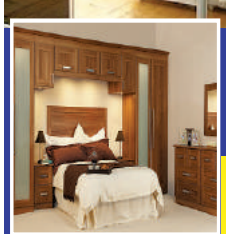

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Club trustees help military charities

From left, Malcolm Smith MBE, Lancashire Chairman of SSAFA receives a cheque from trustee Marilyn Westley with Chris Newton of SSAFA

William Martin, Lancashire area secretary of The Royal British Legion receives a cheque from trustee Geoff Hammond

From left, trustee David Westley presents a cheque to Colonel Chris Owen and Colonel Justin Tancrel representing the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Charity

THE trustees of the former Comrades Club site have distributed £413,197 equally between three servicemen's charities in a presentation held at the War Memorial in Ormskirk's Coronation Park.

The Royal British Legion, the armed forces charity SSAFA and the Regimental Charity of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment have all been given £127,732 to benefit West Lancashire's servicemen, ex-servicemen and their dependants.

The Comrades Club closed in 2006 and following the sale of the site, the trustees paid off the outstanding mortgage and settled all professional fees before they used £37,921 of the net proceeds to pay accrued business rates, £100,000 via a planning obligation towards the building of two replacement bowling greens on land adjoining Ormskirk Cricket Club and donated £79,262 to West Lancashire Borough Council for the dismantling and relocating the War Memorial to Coronation Park. This included preparing the site and the recent additions of the two stone pillars with the names of the fallen from both World Wars.

The Trust was set up in 1924 when Aughton resident George Walmsley Blundell generously gifted the land. The Comrades Club was granted a licence to occupy the site subject to various conditions including financial viability, servicemen and ex-servicemen forming a certain percentage of the membership and a maximum term of 25 years after the death of the last surviving grandchild of Queen Victoria.

Trustee David Westley said: "The distribution of net proceeds from the sale of the site to established charities that must use them in accordance with the aims of the original Trust is the culmination of a long and sometimes difficult process.

"I would like to record my appreciation of the help and guidance received from solicitors Dickinson Parker Hill, and in particular the late David Forster, a partner in the firm and a fellow trustee at the time the club closed and possession of the property reverted to the Trust.

"At that point, the Trustees were faced with a very difficult situation as the property had been mortgaged in support of the club's bank borrowings but the Trust had no other assets or income to service the debt.

"A distressed sale or allowing the bank to take possession would have yielded little in the way of net sale proceeds and would not have been in the best interests of the ultimate beneficiaries.

"Through David Forster's guidance and determination the Trustees maximised the proceeds by means of a conditional sale - so completion only took place after the purchaser had obtained planning permission for the proposed redevelopment. The downside of this was the lengthy timescale."

Catering double for family firm

A FAMILY who run a catering company were thrilled to win two prestigious awards in a regional competition.

Joe Fay and his family run the GWF Catering Company, which has kitchen facilities in both Ormskirk and Liverpool.

They were awarded two titles at the 2016 England Food Awards at the recent awards ceremony in Manchester – the Northern Caterer of the Year Award and the Overall Caterer Award.

Joe said: "We now have the capacity to cater all over West Lancs and Merseyside, having recently developed our second kitchen facility.

"Not only did win the Northern Award, we also picked up the Overall Caterer award which covered the North, Midlands and South of England! Such a great achievement by our company!"

Joe Fay

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Pub flushed with success after loo award

AN ORMKIRK pub has scooped a British Toilet Association 'Loo of the Year' award!

Staff at the Court Leet in Wheatsheaf Walk were awarded the platinum star rating by inspectors after an unannounced visit.

The toilets are judged against numerous criteria, including decor and maintenance, cleanliness, accessibility, hand washing and drying equipment and overall management.

Manager Lisa Newton said: "I am delighted with the award. Staff at the pub work hard to ensure the toilets are in first-class condition at all times and it is great that this has been recognised by the inspectors."

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Traffic should be stopped so we can properly honour the fallen

THE motor car has a lot to answer for.

Traffic jams (causing my bus to be late), accidents (causing all-round misery), and conniving in the demise of the polar bear.

To those I now reckon, you can add the spoiling of Remembrance Sunday at least where I live in Maghull.

Each year I walk up to the parish church along with my dog, Tina, to watch the Remembrance Day proceedings at the memoriall ychgate, dedicated to those who gave their lives in conflict.

Not many years ago, smart members of the Air Training Corps along with local Scouts, Girl Guides and the Fire Brigade formed up in ranks outside the church.

Shortly before 11am, the police closed off the roads immediately around and they all marched to the Royal British Legion less than a quarter of a mile away.

And a stirring sight they made.

Mind you, Tina, the dog who isn't worried by fireworks or even shotguns going off in her vicinity, for some reason has always taken exception to folk stamping their feet in close proximity to where she is.

One of the few times I am embarrassed by her is at ceremonies such as this, which seem to scare her.

But not that many years ago, not only were the roads near the church itself closed, but also traffic was halted on the A59 Northway dual carriageway as well, so the procession could process.

That was done away with a few years ago now, but at least the parade still took place up to this major traffic barrier.

Actually, in the days when it was indeed closed to traffic, the A59 was a major trunk artery to Preston.

It was 'de-trunked' in favour of the motorway a while ago now, but of course that didn't stop the amount of traffic on it from increasing year by year.

Anyway, as usual this year Tina and I turned up outside the church.

But now, the 'procession' had shrunk to the ATC and the war veterans (whose numbers regrettably are now much reduced), who marched all of a hundred yards or so.

Yes, it was still moving.

But not really impressive.

And until this year, Tina and I had mingled with a couple of dozen 'ordinary' citizens who had turned up like me to watch what was afoot from the opposite side of the road.

This year, and I kid you not, there was just one dog less than humans – and there were only five dogs!

I do not think people have forgotten our war heroes – over the past few weeks there have been more TV programmes dedicated to the horrors our servicemen had to endure in both world wars than you could shake sticks at.

This year though, in Maghull at least, I thought the small dedication ceremony outside the British Legion club was more moving than the 'main event' outside the parish church.

It got me wondering.

Would it really cause that much inconvenience to hold up the traffic for five minutes or so, even on a busy dual carriageway?

After all, it is on a Sunday morning, not many folk are trying to get to work or attending to urgent business surely?

And I really think (and hope) that a short delay to their car journey at 11am on one Sunday of the year would not upset them at all.

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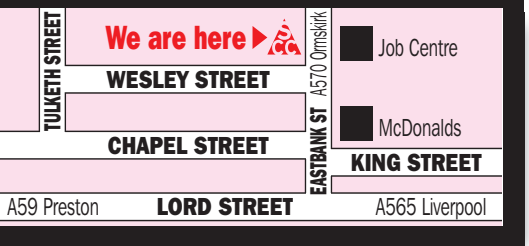

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Visitors enjoying last year's Rainbow House Christmas event

Staff at children's charity to hold Christmas fundraiser

STAFF at a children's charity in Mawdesley are gearing up to hold their annual Christmas fair on Saturday, December 3.

Rainbow House on Salt Pit Lane offers conductive education (training for people with motor disorders), rehabilitation, education and fun for children, young people and adults with neurological conditions.

Their fair will be run from 2-5pm on Saturday, December 3 at the Rainbow House hub with all proceeds going to the charity.

Families can look forward to traditional fun with carols, a brass band, mince pies and a tombola.

Santa will be in his magical grotto to welcome children and there will be reindeer to pet while parents can get into the Christmas spirit with a glass of mulled wine.

Other activities for children include crafts and activities, face painting and glitter hair.

There will also be gifts on sale including handbags, skincare and beauty products, cards, chocolate bouquets, fairy doors, and cushions.

At the end of the afternoon, there will be a Christmas tree lights switch-on.

Entry will be free but donations are welcome and there will be a £5 charge to visit Santa which includes a gift.

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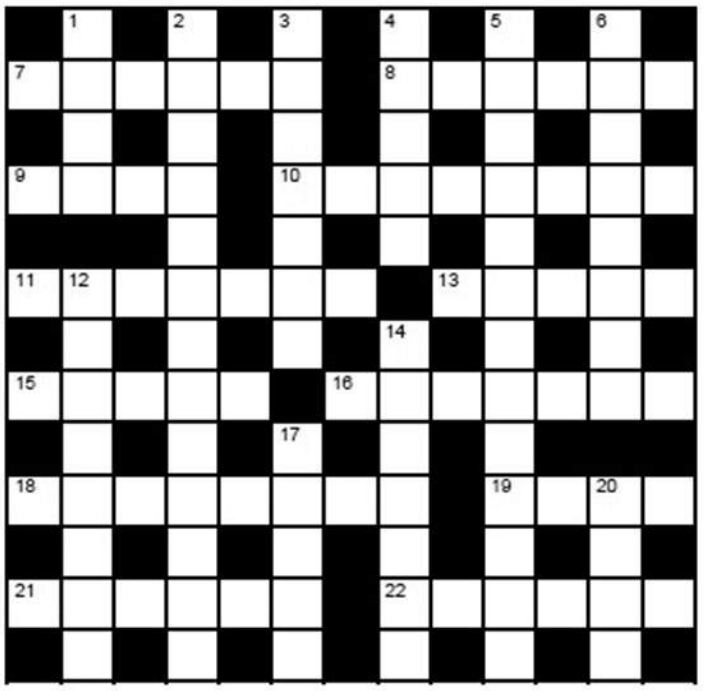

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Eighty. 8 Abound. 9 Yo-Yo. 10 Internal. 11 Innings. 13 Usual. 15 Buggy. 16 Riposte. 18 Pilaster. 19 Draw. 21. Ringer. 22. Nuncio.

Down: 1 Giro. 2 Shooting range. 3 Syringe. 4 Faith. 5 Corresponding. 6 Inhalant. 12 Neuritis. 14 Vibrant. 17 Stark. 20 Aria.

ACROSS

7 Cutting edge (2-4)
8 Network of nerves or vessels in the body (6)
9 Travelled on a horse or a bike (4)
10 Many and various (8)
11 Part of a door lock (7)
13 Landing stage, small pier (5)
15 Docking site, mooring (5)
16 Gambling on the outcome of a race or other contest (7)
18 Fuss, hype (8)
19 Continuous dull pain (4)
21 Famously and distinctively representative of its type (6)
22 Castrated man (6)

DOWN

1 Light-coloured dry sherry (4)
2 Camera accessory used to focus in on distant objects (9,4)
3 Walk with a slow, shuffling gait (7)
4 Backbone (5)
5 Presence of mind (4-9)
6 Broadcast summary of news (8)
12 Refinement, grace (8)
14 Loyal, faithful (7)
17 Examine, inspect (5)
20 Rough cut (4)

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Airline bosses launch competition to design new aircraft livery

THE airline Blue Air, which has made Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA) their newest European base, has launched a competition for someone to design the new livery for their 189 seat Boeing 737-800 aircraft that will be based at Liverpool next year.

Blue Air are keen to become Liverpool's airline and are already working with local organisations to help in their recruitment for up to 35 new, direct, local employees.

The 'design-a-livery' competition is another way in which the airline wants to become part of the Liverpool City Region and having shortlisted what they believe are the top three designs, Blue Air will then ask the public to vote for the winning design to make it a truly local desicion.

The Liverpool liveried aircraft will operate on Blue Air's new routes from LJLA to Rome, Milan, Hamburg and Alicante and one lucky individual who comes up with the best design, will have this recreated on the aircraft fuselage to be seen by thousands of passengers at LJLA, at airports in Europe and in the skies above Merseyside too.

As well as seeing their design appear on the aircraft, the winner of the competition will also receive two free return flights from Liverpool to any Blue Air destination.

LJLA's ceo Andrew Cornish (centre) celebrating with Blue Air's chief operating officer Tudor Constantinescu (far left) and ceo Gheorghe Racaru (far right)

Liverpool John Lennon Airport is working closely with Blue Air on this competition and has set up a link on the homepage of the Airport's website www.liverpoolairport.com from where budding aircraft livery designers can download an aircraft template on which to complete their design and send in their entry.

Entrants must be 18 or over and the closing date for the competition is November 30.

Robin Tudor, head of PR for Liverpool John Lennon Airport commented: "This is a fantastic opportunity for someone to have their idea for an aircraft livery become reality and to be seen by thousands of people at home and abroad.

"Blue Air really want to be a part of the City Region and for passengers to think of them as their airline. Painting their aircraft with a livery unique to their operations here at Liverpool is a great way to help achieve this."

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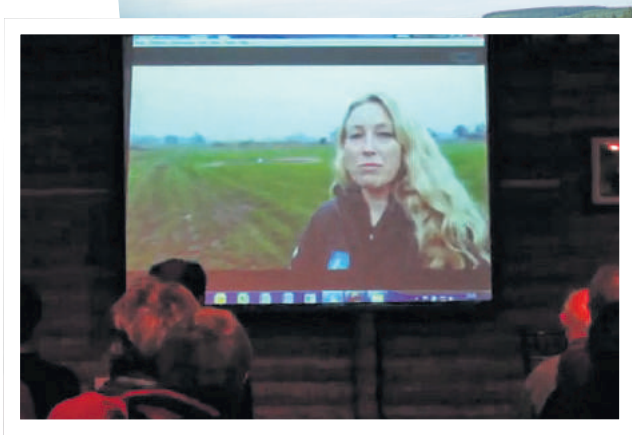

WWT and Martin Mere are currently taking part in one of the most daring conservation projects that has ever been attempted - A mission that connects wildlife, wetlands and people – from the wilderness of the arctic tundra all the way to UK.

WWT is putting a totally new spin on migration with Sacha Dench, WWT, doing an epic 7,000km journey by paramotor from the Bewick's swans arctic breeding grounds back to the UK.

WWT Martin Mere was lucky enough to do a live link to Sacha at last week's North West Bird Watching Festival to find out how she is coping 8 weeks into the expedition, the challenges she is facing and the highlights along the way – she was asked a number of questions from the sell-out crowd and told them about the expedition.

Sacha and the expedition team will be flying the Bewick's entire flyway, often at altitudes as low as 100m on a voyage that lasts as long as sixteen weeks … providing a birds eye view on the challenges facing these critically endangered birds.

They've already safely navigated the vast Russian tundra – and its polar bears – Sacha and the team continued to track the swans' progress through Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland (where she was during the live link) with Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium and France still to go.

If Sacha completes the flight from the French coast to England, she'll become the first woman to successfully cross the English Channel by paramotor. Now on the home straight, and following the Thames, Sacha will fly through central London before finishing the mammoth journey at WWT Slimbridge.

But why does Flight of the Swans matter?

Between 1995 and 2010 numbers of swans making the migration from arctic Russia to northern Europe plummeted by more than a third – from 29,000 to just 18,000.

By joining the Bewick's on their migration, Sacha and the expedition team will see for themselves just why swans are unable to survive the journey.

Through Flight of the Swans WWT will gather first-hand evidence and information that, combined with existing research, can contribute to life-saving conservation action right along the Bewick's migratory flyway. A petition has been launched to save the Bewick swan and the wetalnds they inhabit and you can sign the petition at: www.flightoftheswans.org/petition

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 9.30am to 4.30pm during winter months and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight WWT Wetland Centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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Total Eclipse of The Sun: Sefton follows West Lancs in call to stop selling paper

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

SEFTON Council has followed in the footsteps of West Lancs council and supported a motion calling on all retailers and vendors of newspapers in the borough to stop selling copies of The S*n.

The motion was submitted by Cllr Gordon Friel at a Full Council meeting held at Southport Town Hall and was approved with the full support of council.

It also applauded the group called 'Total Eclipse of the S*n' for their endeavours to rid Sefton of the newspaper.

Cllr Gordon Friel said: "I am delighted the motion received cross party support and we now follow in the footsteps of other local authorities and partner agencies inadopting this stance.

"What was reported in this paper after the Hillsborough tragedywas a pack of lies and we hope by supporting this motion we can give retailers the confidence to make their own choices on whether or not to sell the paper.

"Hopefully as more and more retailers choose to stop stocking and selling this paper, it will simply disappear from Merseyside."

Cllr Ian Maher, Labour Leader at Sefton Council, added: "I applaud this motion and everything it stands for.

"As an area, Sefton suffered terribly with the loss of many lives following the Hillsborough tragedy and some of those wounds will never heal.

"Asking retailers and vendors in the borough to stop selling The S*n newspaper lends our continuous support to all the Hillsborough families and shows we will never forgive or forget what was published."

Southport councillor Sue McGuire added: “We are delighted and proud to support this motion.

“There were some passionate and very heartfelt speeches in support.”

West Lancashire Borough Council supported a similar motion last month; prompting calls from residents in Sefton to follow suit.

The motion in West Lancs was first put forward by Digmoor ward Labour councillor, Kevin Wilkie, who was a survivor of the Hillsborough disaster.

Councillors and campaigners on the steps of Southport town hall following the motion

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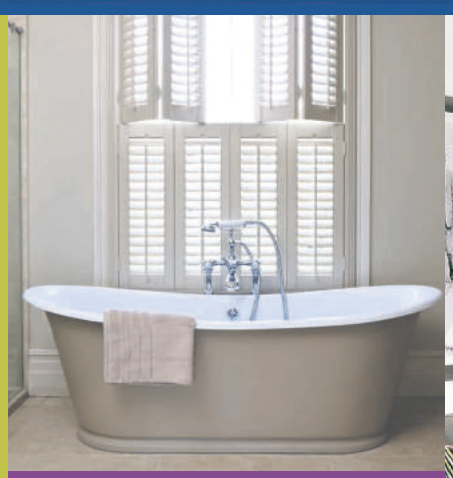

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Parbold Chamber Choir to hold festive concert

PARBOLD Chamber Choir are holding their Feast of Festive Music concert on Saturday, December 3.

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

The concert will feature traditional choir carols with solos and carols with audience participation at 7.30pm at Our Lady and All Saints' Roman Catholic Church on Lancaster Lane in Parbold.

Choir secretary Alex Garden said: "We will help our audience get into the Christmas spirit. It will feature *A Christmas Cantata* by Geoffrey Bush – an arrangement of English Christmas carols concluding with an exuberant setting of *I Saw Three Ships*.

"*Oh Holy Night* and *Carol of Bells* are amongst the well-loved collection of traditional carols that follow. There will be an interval with refreshments and there is ample parking behind the church.

"If you enjoy singing, why not try us out? Parbold Chamber Choir is holding a free taster evening to sing carols in 4-parts and Handel's *Zadok the Priest* with seasonal refreshments at 7.30pm on Wednesday, December 7 at Our Lady and All Saints' Roman Catholic Primary School on Brandreth Drive in Parbold."

Tickets cost £10 and can be ordered by calling 01704 821303 or 01257 464643, email contact@parboldchamberchoir.co.uk or buy tickets on the door.

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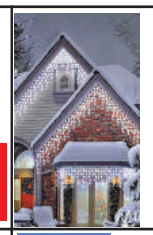
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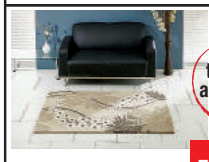
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Lower Alt Wind farm proposals rejected

PLANS to build a huge wind farm in Lower Altcar have been rejected by West Lancashire Borough Council.

An application was put forward to build wind turbines across a large area of farmland near Lydiate and involved plans to build 12 turbines, a wind monitoring station, an on site substation, underground cables and access tracks in Lower Alt.

Earlier proposals were put forward by Coriolis Energy in 2013 when the company submitted plans to build 24 turbines, but were unsuccessful after objections from residents.

The company then submitted a revised scheme and reduced the number of turbines to 12, however this was rejected at last weeks meeting (November 11), much to the delight of many residents.

As reported in the Champion previously, many objectors were concerned about the loss of greenbelt land, concerns over the impact on protected sites such as Martin Mere and the Simonswood Moss pink–footed goose roost along with damage to the general landscape.

It was also claimed that the wind farm could affect the micro light strip at Ince Blundell and the flight path to RAF Woodvale as well as helicopters landing at Altcar Camp.

Report by **Louisa Austin**

In council documents outlining the objection it is stated that: "The proposed development constitutes inappropriate development within the green belt which would be harmful to the green belt," and that the proposal conflicts with several planning policies and frameworks set up to protect the environment, wildlife and conservation.

Councillor Sam Currie, said: "I am relieved and delighted that this application was finally refused and that residents in both West Lancashire and Sefton have been freed from the threat that has been hanging over them for the past couple of years.

Horrendous Impact

"If the application had been approved then the massive wind farm would've had a horrendous impact on homes, farming, leisure activities and the abundant wildlife.

"This large area of greenbelt land is really special and fully deserves the considerable protection it is afforded by the West Lancashire Local Plan."

Cllr. Currie, added: "Notwithstanding the very strong recommendation for refusal by the Borough Planner, I was concerned when the Application was deferred at the October's Meeting by Labour who used their majority on the Planning Committee.

"I am glad that they saw sense and listen to the strong arguments put forward by my fellow Aughton & Downholland Ward Councillors, David Westley and David O'Toole."

Coriolis Energy have stated that they they chose Lower Altcar because the area was considered likely to have a suitable wind speed, comprises a large area of land far enough away from houses to support a wind farm, the site is accessible for wind turbine delivery vehicles and that the site has also been identified within West Lancashire Borough Council's Local Plan as the most suitable for wind energy within the district.

Project manager for the wind farm Trevor Hunter said:

"We are disappointed that the Lower Alt wind farm proposal was rejected by West Lancashire Borough Council and that the substantial environmental and other benefits of the project were overlooked.

"If built, the Lower Alt Wind Farm would utilise a free and clean source of energy, helping in the fight against climate change.

"The wind turbines would help Lancashire and the north-west generate more home grown electricity, reducing the reliance on imported and domestically sourced fossil fuels.

"Although West Lancashire has challenging targets to deliver renewable energy, principally anticipated to come from onshore wind, no other similar schemes have come forward to date.

"Simply, if these targets and the challenge of avoiding dangerous climate change are to be met, projects like this need to be given approval.

"The Lower Alt project would help bring about benefits to local businesses and if built local people would receive an annual community fund and potentially the opportunity to own a share in the wind farm.

"Coriolis will now review its options."

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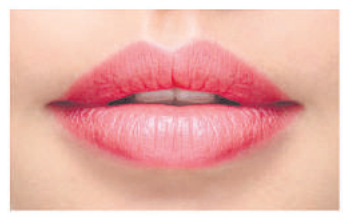

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Feta cheese, black olives, basil, red onion, peppers and cucumber on salad leaves with pesto

CHICKEN CAESAR £10.95
Sliced chicken, Romaine lettuce and boiled egg salad finished with Caesar dressing, croutons and shaved Parmesan

PAN FRIED FILLET OF SALMON £11.95
Mixed house salad with a lemon and dill dressing finished with a salmon supreme

ULTIMATE BURGERS

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SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN BURGER £10.95
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THE BIG CHEESE £11.95
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FROM THE PIZZA OVEN

Delicious freshly rolled thin crust stone baked pizza bases finished with your choice of toppings

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Tomato Ragu and Buffalo Mozzarella

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Tomato Ragu, Char-grilled Chicken, Sweetcorn, Pancetta and Mozzarella

MEXICANA £11.95
Chilli, Buffalo Mozzarella, Calabrian Sausage, Peppers and Jalapenos

VEGETARIANA (v) £11.95
Tomato Ragu, Mixed Peppers, Char Grilled Courgettes, Red Onions and Meadow Mushrooms

DOUGHNUT MEAT FEAST £13.95
Garlic Chicken, Chorizo Sausage, Buffalo Mozzarella and finished with a rich Bolognaise Sauce

CALZONE £12.95
Garlic Chicken, Calabrian Sausage, Buffalo Mozzarella and finished with a rich Bolognaise Sauce

TASTE OF THE CONTINENT

BOLD STYLE MOUSSAKA £11.95
Fresh lamb bolognaise with aubergines, courgettes and potatoes sat on top drizzled with a béchamel sauce finished under a cheese gratinated. Served with garlic bread or salad

FRESH OPEN LASAGNE £11.95
Fresh lasagne leaf blanketed over a Beef bolognaise sauce drizzled with a béchamel sauce finished under a cheese gratinated top served with garlic bread or salad

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An Italian favourite needing no introduction, served with garlic bread or salad

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Parents create new youth club

A GROUP of parents are set to launch a new youth club in Haskayne.

The Haskayne Youth Club will be based at the former changing rooms and pavilion building on School Lane in the village which was refurbished earlier this year after the parish councila ecured a £10,000 National Lottery grant. Local entrepreneur Lynsey Blane has joined forces with a group of friends on the project and they hope to open it early next year.

Lynsey was featured in the Champion in September when she set up a monthly market in Ormskirk with her husband. The mum-of-one had previously undergone life-saving surgery to remove a brain tumour. She will now work on the project with Lucy Costello, Mike Wainwright and Rachel Lucas, whose children all go to Downholland Haskayne Primary School and Ormskirk School.

Lynsey is appealing for volunteers to help out one or two nights a month and for donations of equipment.

She said: "This project would not be happenning without the wonderful clerk of Downholland Haskayne Parish Council securing a Lottery Grant for £10,000. She put a lot of work into securing this grant, and we really appreciate her efforts.

To volunteer or donate equipment email Youthclub16@yahoo.com

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Safety group praised after a drop in Bonfire bad behaviour

WEST Lancashire's Community Safety Partnership have been praised for the activities they arranged to help to reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour incidents during the Bonfire Period.

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

Historically in West Lancashire the bonfire period meant that both Lancashire Fire and Rescue and Lancashire Constabulary dealt with large numbers of incidents. Anti-social behaviour, injuries and localised fires were extremely common and this prompted the Community Safety Partnership to run annual activities aimed at reducing the impact on residents.

A lot of work goes into planning the events, which encourage young people to take part on positive activities during the bonfire period.

Each year the Go4It event runs at Skelmersdale Fire Station. This year young people could show off their football skills in the penalty shootout and beat the goalie games. They could also test their nerve on a simulator game of the television show Wipe Out, and have a go at the fun inflatable boxing. There were also two funfair stalls, and face-painting and nail art organised by Lancashire County Council's Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help Service, who had staff members supporting the event.

Around 200 young people attended the events over the two nights and all the activities were extremely popular.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service has reported that they had low numbers of call-outs each night and the police have also agreed that the number of incidents was low, with excellent feedback from the community.

The Community Safety and Environmental Enforcement have said they did a lot of proactive work in the build-up to the bonfire period removing over 100 tons of rubbish and combustible materials.

The council also had staff out removing bonfires from unauthorised sites before Bonfire night and also the day after. They have also continued to remove bonfire waste as part of their normal routine.

Cllr Kevin Wright, cabinet member for health and community safety said "I am extremely pleased with the success of these events as they show what excellent value for money the Community Safety Partnership provides with the council and other services working together.

"Reducing the numbers of incidents partner agencies have to deal with is a key objective for this initiative. At the same time it looks like a large number of local people enjoyed themselves safely."

Dave Tilleray, chairman of West Lancashire Borough Council Community Safety Partnership, said: "The Partnership has worked extremely well to ensure that local people were safe on Bonfire Night. We will continue to work together in future years to protect local people."

Sgt Andrew Bramhall, of Skelmersdale Police, said: "The Community Safety Partnership is an invaluable service and the proactive work of members helped to reduce the number of emergency incidents during Bonfire Night.

Matthew Hamer, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service station manager for West Lancashire, said: "Working with our community safety partners has proved a great success in ensuring Bonfire Night passed peacefully."

There has been a drop in bonfire related bad behaviour

Members of the group with their displays

Art group hold autumn display

ARTISTS from Mawdesley have held their most recent exhibition at the local Village Hall.

Members of the Mawdesley U3A (University of the Third Age) Art Group held the annual Autumn and Winter display at Mawdesley Village Hall earlier this month.

The University of the Third Age is an international organisation which provides opportunities for retired and semi-retired people to learn a number of new skills.

The group's co-ordinator Norman Foulds said: "There was a wide range of subject matter, media used, and painting style on display. The event was well attended, and most pictures were available for sale by the artists.

"We are a thriving social group, so if you are interested in taking up painting or drawing, or wish to develop your skills further, ring me on 01257 462121."

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Members of SING4FUN!

Singers say farewell to their musical director

SINGERS from SING4FUN!, an adults only community choir based in Parbold, have bid a fond farewell to their first musical director, Graham Fairbairn and welcomed Nathan Blackburn as their new MD.

Graham (pictured left) has been leading the group since it started in January 2015.

Nathan is already an established musical director with the St Helens Male Voice Choir and SING4FUN! look forward to his leadership, building on the foundations Graham has made and ensuring continued success for the group.

Gill Louttit, one of the group's founder members said: "We all owe Graham a great deal, leading us from our very first meeting and building us into the group we are today."

She went on: "We have come such a long way thanks to Graham and to his skill and enthusiasm, which has enabled us to progress to the standard we are now."

SING4FUN! rehearses every Monday evening during school term times, at Our Lady & All Saints Primary School in Parbold. Over the past 18 months, members have performed at local festivals and events and regularly sing at the local care homes in Parbold.

SING4FUN! now has a strong core membership of over 40 men and women from Parbold, Wrightington, Standish, Skelmersdale and Ormskirk. New members are welcome. The first session for new members is free.

For further information have a look at the website: www.sing4fun-parbold.weebly.com or email parboldsing4fun@gmail.com

Spain's number one pianist praises borough venue

Interview by **Henry James**

SPAIN'S number one concert pianist could be heard at the Arena Auditorium at Parbold Village Hall on Saturday night (November 19).

Javier Perianes has played at some of the world's most famous venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York, so it was a coup for Douglas Music to book him to play in West Lancashire.

He spoke to the Champion about the benefits of playing in an intimate venue: "In a smaller venue you can have a closer relationship with the audience. You can also talk to them about what you are playing. It is not possible to do this at venues such as Carnegie Hall because there are thousands of people there. I think some performances in smaller venues can go straight to the heart. You also don't have to project the sound to the end of the hall.

"However the venue is not the most important aspect, the music is. If you are playing in a very small hall, or a famous concert hall in London, New York, Berlin, or Madrid your main concern is not with the city, the amount of people that are listening to you, or even with the hall, it is with the music that you are performing."

The concert Perianes gave included Schubert's much-loved final sonata, and works by Claude Debussy called Preludes and Manuel De Falla's Fantasia Baetica, which is about Andalusia. Perianes commented: "The first half was dedicated to Schubert's music and included his last piano sonata, which is one of the most beautiful in the repertoire for a pianist. It is a huge piece of music and it is one of his last works before he died. The music evokes different moods and it is very difficult to play.

Javier Perianes

"In the second half we explored the relationship between Spanish and French music through the work by Debussy and Manuel De Fella.

"When you design a recital, you need the audience to make a beautiful trip with you."

During his visit the pianist was also complimentary of Parbold's Steinway Model D Concert Grand Piano, which was bought for the benefit of the local community. He added: "The sound that comes from it is very beautiful."

After Parbold, Javier will be touring North and South America next year which will include: New York, San Francisco, and Washington. The end of the tour will be at the Teatro Colon, which is among the best concert venues in the world.

National treasure at theatre

THERE is a chance to see a national treasure at Southport theatre this Saturday (November 26) at 7pm.

Ken Dodd, who is celebrating 60 years of entertaining audiences, is bringing his Ken Dodd's Happiness Show to the town.

During the night he will tell non-stop gags and sing a selection of songs presented in Dodd's unique and varied style: Everything from ballads to grand opera.

He became a professional entertainer in 1954 and just a little more than 10 years later he made his debut at the famous London Palladium – where he enjoyed an unprecedented record breaking 42 week sell-out season.

In 1965 he replaced his fellow Merseysiders The Beatles (then at the peak of their popularity) from the No.1 spot in the pop charts with Tears and today it proudly occupies 10th position in the Top 20 best-selling records of all time.

His string of hits includes Love Is Like A Violin and his signature tune Happiness. Singing also plays a prominent part in his stage act. His vocal range includes everything from the classics to pop music and even grand opera.

But it is his work as a comedian that stamps Dodd out as a showbiz legend.

Indeed, away from his hectic touring schedule, Ken became recipient of the prestigious Living Legend award from The British Comedy Society. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award in the British Comedy Awards.

Ken Dodd

Orchestra promising a spectacular concert

THE members of Southport Orchestra are promising a spectacular Christmas Concert at Emmanuel Church, Cambridge Road, Southport, on Saturday, December 3 at 7.30pm.

This Christmas Concert will be a rare performance by the Town's Orchestra to celebrate the festive season and will anticipate the forthcoming festivities by a programme of especially selected music.

It is expected that the Church will be filled to capacity for this event, therefore to prevent any disappointment it is recommended that tickets be secured in plenty of time beforehand.

At the event there will be a guest performance by the Southport Bach Choir.

As usual the Orchestra will be under the baton of its popular musical director, Jeff Rimmer who works hard to make the concerts the success they are, while ensuring that the players also garner much deserved satisfaction for their efforts.

Jeff again will be assisted by the leader Mel Foster.

Tickets can be obtained from the Christian Book Centre, Wesley Street, Southport. For more information call 01704 54226.

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Mon 20th February
5 days £279
BODELWYDDAN
Mon 27th February
5 days £249
THORESBY HALL
Mon 20th March
5 days £309

November/December Day Excursions

Fri 25th	Boundary Mill for Black Friday Event	£12.90
Sat 26th	BBC Good Food Show @ NEC Birmingham *inc admission*	£34.90
Sun 27th	Upper Peak Forest Canal Cruise *inc lunch & cruise*	£30.90
Wed 30th	Chester Victorian Christmas Market	£11.90
Thu 1st	Manchester for Christmas Markets	£11.90
Sat 3rd	Bury Market & East Lancs R'way Santa Special *inc train*	£28.90
	Lincoln Christmas Market	£20.90
Sun 4th	Skipton Yuletide Festival & Christmas Market	£15.90
Tue 6th	Christmas @ Chatsworth House *inc admission*	£30.90
Sat 10th	The 100th Grassington Dickensian Festival	£16.90
Sun 11th	What the Dickens! Blists Hill Victorian Town *inc adm*	£23.90

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FRI 2nd
THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW
WED 14th (Floral Hall)
CHRISTMAS MEMORIES
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JANUARY
SAT 21st
MACCA - THE CONCERT
Celebrating the music of Paul McCartney
THU 26th
PSYCHIC SALLY
CALL ME PSYCHIC
FRI 27th-SAT 28th
THRILLER LIVE
Featuring the songs of MICHAEL and the JACKSON 5

FEBRUARY
SUN 5th
NATHAN CARTER
WED 8th
ROUND THE HORNE
THU 9th
An Evening with AGGERS & TUFFERS
FRI 10th
SMOKIE
SAT 11th
YOU WIN AGAIN
The Story of the Bee Gees
MON 13th - SAT 18th
BLOOD BROTHERS
SUN 19th
JIMMY CARR
TUE 21st
JAMIE RAVEN
THU 23rd
I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T A CLUE
SAT 25th
ONE NIGHT IN NASHVILLE

FRI 9th – SAT 31st
SNOW WHITE
Starring Home and Away's Lynne McGranger as the Wicked Queen and CBeebies' Justin Fletcher as The Magic Mirror
*Justin Fletcher appears as a video projection and will not appear in person

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EXTENSION LADDERS 3x4M 14 rung. Very stable. Good quality. VGC and barely used. £145 01704 631903

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SCAFFOLDING LADDER six foot aluminium ladder with hooks at both ends to fit over scaffolding £20 ono 01704 532648

ALUMINIUM LADDERS Heavy duty Two ladder set 15 foot long when retracted, can be used separately £80 ono Birkdale 01704-568606 or 07850-935406

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BIRD FEEDER New very good quality tall hanging fatball feeder holds six fatballs. Metal and clear plastic construction with weatherproof top.£5.00 01704 546978

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HOBBIES

JEWEL FLAT FRONT LARGE FISHTANK and pump. £30. Aqua start 320 and pump. £20.01704 884564

WANTED MILITARIA Cap badges, insignia and buttons.WWII or earlier. 0792 1172 834

PETROF PIANO Upright in dark gloss finish. Around 15 years old. Good bass tone Supplied & tuned twice yearly by Rimmers music. £2000 07801 493946

VINYL RECORDS 33 in total Jim Reeves Shirley Bassey etc £15 01695 420950

KATIE FFORDE 3 Hardback, 14 softback Katie Fforde chit lit novels, excellent condition, email list available £10.00 0151 2860268

JUDY ASTLEY 14 Softback Judy Astley chic lit novels, excellent condition, email list available £10.00 0151 2860268

HOBBIES

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HOUSE AND HOME

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BEAUTIFUL 3 PIECE SUITE Cream/beige. 12 months old, as new. 3 seater recliner sofa, 2 seater sofa & 1 reclining chair. Cost £3,000, will sell for £1,000 01704 840946

HOUSE AND HOME

STRESSLESS RECLINER CHAIR and footstool. Beige. VGC. Reason for sale. £485 ono 01704 510218

GAS FIREPLACE solid wood surround, marble effect plinth. Good working order & condition. Can be seen in situ/ working until 27th Nov. £200ono 07947581127 01704213203

CORNER COUCH Brown leather corner couch for sale, excellent condition, was £1000 new. Will take £100, collection only 07824878979

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POWER CENTRE Energy saving Monster Green Power Centre. HDP 850G. 8 socket for LCD, Plasma or CRT TV's. Unused boxed £20 07817375292

HALOGEN OVEN Fries, roasts, grills, bakes. Ideal for small kitchens. £20. 01704 514890/07785566044

HOUSE AND HOME

CONSERVATORY FURNITURE Gold colour metal tubular frame,wicker seats and table top etc,4 chairs,round table, wall unit with 2 drawers,£75 01704 530137

COMPLETE KITCHEN 9 Base 8 wall units including sink dishwasher fridge/freezer oven hob extractor microwave Buyer removes £500 01704 507924

AMETHYST EARRINGS New pierced ear rings make Christmas gift £5 01704 896402/07425139656

TEA SET Lovely bone china 5 cups saucers plates milk jug sugar bowl Royal standard fancy free nice condition £15 01695 420950

VICTORIAN MANGLE Full working order but safety bolt fitted, ideal plant stand £50 ono Birkdale 01704-568606 or 07850-935406

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HOUSE AND HOME

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GIRLS BEDROOM Curtains ,heart spot design pink,lilac,white, pink lining , 86inswide x53ins drop, valance with bow/ pleat detail, custom made ex condition £ 15 07708836403

DOG CAGE Cage only. Medium £5 07515032419

CONVECTOR HEATER 2 kw with frost and variable setting control. Good working order suit garage, outbuilding, shed. £6. 01704 560150

CHRISTMAS TREE 6 Ft artificial green Christmas tree with stand in good condition. £10 01704 560150

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BISSELL PRO-HEAT carpet/furniture cleaner £35 07754672733

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HOUSE AND HOME

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SOFA 2 seater fabric sofa beige and autumn colours £30 after 6 pm 01704 566482

ANTIQUE CHEST large 7 drawer chest very old pine colour £95 after 6pm 01704 566482

PICTURE & MIRROR M&S oriental picture and a pine framed mirror 19.5 x 14 inches, Aintree £10
07434841029

DROP LEAF table oak in colour 4 chairs good condition only £100 01515316937

STAINLESS STEEL serving tray/ dish with lid (2" depth). Suitable for catering/xmas. Unused. £6 07855222552/07821417560

DUVET SET King size cover and 2 pillow cases. M&S. Turquoise poly cotton with ruffle satin insert. £20. 01695 420120

DINING TABLE+6CHAIRS Double Pedestal Pine extending Dining Table and six matching chairs.105cm wide x 160cm long extending to 208cm. Good condition. £120 . 01257463849

SHREK CURTAINS Blue with Shrek & Donkey images, each curtain measures 132" wide and 54" drop. These are two sets I've sown together so they can be separated, width of each curtain would then be 66" wide. Perfect condition. Smoke and pet-free home. £10 07752581516

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required

The work would involve supporting adults to take part in social and sports activities in the evening and sometimes at weekends. Having experience in similar work is essential. Activities include ten pin bowling, walks and swimming.

Up to 6 hours per week and up to £8 per hour depending on experience. Car ownership essential (mileage will be paid at 40p per mile).

For discussion or application pack

Call: 07971 299606

Email: Edward@divinedays.co.uk

Closing Date: 1st December 2016

www.divinedays.co.uk

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REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY

We are looking for 5 enthusiastic and motivated people to join our growing telesales team in Ormskirk.

We offer full training and great wages from the start with daily, weekly and monthly incentives.

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- *Round includes:* Windrows, Wigan Rd, Windgate

CRAWFORD

- *Round includes:* Crawford, Oakleigh, Manor House Dr

UPHOLLAND

- *Round includes:* Alma Walk, Alma Hill, Brookfield Rd, Douglas Ave, Hall Green, Hall Green Cl, Tower Hill Rd

ORMSKIRK/AUGHTON/BURSCOUGH

- *Round includes:* Churchfields, Church St, Park Rd, Aughton St (part), Derby St West (part), Church Walks, The Stiles
- *Round includes:* Grammar School Gardens, Grammar School Court, Pinfold Rd, Merchant Rd, Mulbery Cl, Silk Court, Warpers Way, Spinner Mews
- *Round includes:* Halsall Ln, Halsall Ct, Cottage Ln (part), Church Hill Rd, The Reeds, The Avenue
- *Round includes:* Liverpool Road North, Orrell Ln, Victoria St, Mart Ln, Orrell Mews, Peets Mill

RUFFORD

- *Round includes:* Beech Cl, Liverpool Rd, Thornton Cl, Station Rd, Manor House Cl, Church Cl, Diamond Jubilee Rd, Douglas Cl
- *Round includes:* Brick Kiln Ln, The Hawthornes, Hesketh Gn, New Rd, Willow Gn, Oasis Cl

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hotter

Production Operatives

We are recruiting for Full Time Production Operatives based within the Factory at our Head Office in Skelmersdale. You will be contracted on a permanent basis direct with Hotter.

Working; 37.5 hours per week. Monday to Friday 6am-2pm & 2pm-10pm. Rotational shifts

Reporting to the Supervisor, your key responsibility will be to operate the DESMA moulding machine ensuring that production meets quality standard.

JOB ROLE:
- To ensure that the machinery is fit for operation at all times
- To ensure that lasts are prepared in size order to run in sequence on the moulding machine
- To ensure that the lasts are clipped onto the machine in the correct manner
- To adhere to quality control standards and procedures at all times
- To ensure flow of production is maintained at all times and that all footwear produced meets quality standards.
- To demonstrate a determined approach in order to meet deadlines and quality.
- To observe all Health Safety rules and best practices and reports any instances of non-compliance to the Team Leader.
- To contribute and encourage improvements to healthier and safer methods of working.

If you are interested and have the right skills and experience for this position, please send your CV to Anthony Convey, Factory Trainer email a.convey@hotter.com.

Closing Date: Tuesday, 29th November, 2016

BLOOM care

require a

Deputy Manager

Applicants must have 3 years experience as a senior carer or already be in a Deputy role. Must have Level 3 NVQ in Health and Social Care or equivalent, Level 5 or working towards is desirable. Must have good knowledge of CQC regulations and be flexible, with excellent communication skills.

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ian.sheppard@hurlstonhall.co.uk

hotter

Production Packers

We are recruiting for Full Time Production Packers based in the Factory at our Head Office in Skelmersdale. Your key responsibility will be to quality check production prior to boxing goods for despatch to the Warehouse.

You will be contracted on a permanent basis direct with Hotter. Working 37.5 hours per week, Monday to Thursday, 8am to 4.30pm and Friday 8am to 3.30pm

JOB ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES:
The role involves ensuring that all production is spot checked thoroughly whilst moving through the various stages along the conveyer belt.
- To ensure production meets quality standards whilst packing production
- To ensure any faults are identified and dealt with accordingly
- To work efficiently and effectively as an individual and as part of the packing team
- To pay particular attention to detail ensuring that all work is carried out accurately
- To assist in all other areas within the packing department as and when requested. i.e. racking up shoes, labelling, sorting top socks, creaming, Toe and Heel and other operations performed on the packing line

If you feel you have the necessary skills and experience, please forward your CV, along with a covering letter explaining why you think you would be suitable for the role to Christine Barrow, Factory Trainer or email c.barrow@hotter.com

Closing Date: Tuesday, 29th November, 2016

2 Female Personal Assistants

required for immediate start in Ormskirk area

3 DAYS: Thurs, Fri, Sat 11am till 4pm every other week and cover at £8.50 per hour

Duties will include providing support and assistance with general household duties, accompanying the employer to shops / appointments.
Experience of working in a care role preferred.
Applicants must have a full, clean driving license, Pref car owner.
Previous applicants need not apply.

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We are located just off the M58 which makes this a golden opportunity if you reside in West Lancs, Liverpool or parts of Greater Manchester.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE (but not limited to)
- Coding of invoices for input to system
- Input of invoices to NAV accounting system
- Match and reconcile goods received notes to invoices and Purchase Orders
- Advise purchasing department of any queries to stock related invoices / purchase orders
- Chase warehouse staff for Goods Received notes
- Input of credit notes received
- Provide ad hoc info as requested

QUALIFICATIONS
- 12 months experience of working as a purchase ledger clerk
- Experience of NAV system would be advantageous
- Experience of working in a stock related business would be advantageous
- Experience of dealing in foreign currency would be advantageous

Only apply if you are able to commence work in early December and are prepared to commit to a minimum 6 month period. Please state your current salary on your application.

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Headteacher: Mr G Aldridge MA (Oxon), MEd

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HLTA POST – LITERACY SUPPORT

(29 hours per week, term-time only)
(Scale F - £13,859 - £15,696)

We are looking to appointment a suitably qualified person to provide literacy support across Key Stages 3 and 4. Experience of providing literacy programmes would be an advantage.

TEMPORARY TEACHING ASSISTANT - LEVEL 2

(27.8 hours per week, term-time only)
(Scale D - £10,704 - £11,397)

Temporary until 31 August 2017 in the first instance, duties will include in-class support to students with special educational needs and providing assistance with personal hygiene needs.

Range High is committed to safeguarding and promoting welfare of children so the successful candidate must be able to obtain a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Disclosure

Further details and an application form can be obtained from the school's website at www.range.sefton.sch.uk

Closing date: 4pm on Friday 2 December 2016

MISC

LAURA ASHLEY Shabby chic Queen Pillow filled with duck feathers, blue/cream pattern £9 07858 462998

RECORDS WANTED indie, rock & roll, 60's pop and beat, rock, folk, punk etc. Bought for cash. Cigarette & bubble gum cards also bought. 01704 566210 after 6pm

WOODEN PUZZLES Eleven good quality wooden puzzles, complete and boxed as new. Just in time for Christmas. £20 01704 546978

ASUS NOTEBOOK Asus 10 inch Touch Screen Notebook. Windows 10 64 bit OS. 500 gig HD. 4 gig RAM. 1 gig Processor. Just over a year old and genuine reason for sale £130 01704 546978

SPANISH PORCELAIN Tengra Lady with duck 12 inches tall £30 01695 420950

BUTANE GAS 13 kg, full bottle, yellow £15 Birkdale 01704-568606 or 07850-935406

CHIMNEY POT Terracotta pot 31" high x 11" plus cowling in good condition £15 01695 728281

FLUORESCENT TUBES 5 new and unused in boxes. 1200mm (4Ft) 36 watt. May separate. £12.50 for 5. 01704 560150

CAMPING Hi-Gear double shelf kitchen stand, steel with aluminium slatted tops, 67x48x79 cm in strong carrying bag, VGC £17. 01704 822982

CAMPING Lightweight folding camping table with aluminium slatted top, 69x70x112 cm, in strong carrying bag. VGC. £17. 01704 822982

MISC

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC books 25 in all brand new may deliver £9 ono 07532358204

BOX OF hard back and soft back books £25 ono may deliver 01515263851

OLD CHILD'S TEA SET Little Miss Muffet set, comprising four cups and saucers, milk jug and bowl with tea pot Boxed and in good condition for age £12 07434841029

ORNAMENTAL COTTAGES Four different Irish Heritage Collection ornamental cottages, from the range called Fisherman's Cottage £10 07434841029

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ADULT WHEELCHAIR little used, very comfortable,easily folds, can deliver £55 Southport 214498

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MOTHER AND BABY

BOORI COT £200 Tel 07738 683345

TWO SEATER Dark blue leather manual recliner. In good condition buyer to collect from 1st floor premises in Maghull. £25 ono 07801 493946

RED KITE Baby walker. Suitable for a boy. Opened the box to look but didn't get round to using it £20 07801 493946

EAST COAST White drop side cot. Three position base complete with mattress if needed. Used only twice and in new Condition £50 07801 493946

LITTLE TIKES Picnic table with attached benches, faded but sound, can deliver locally £10 ono Birkdale 01704-568606 or 07850-935406

EXTENDED BABY GATE Lindham walk through safety gate with two maximum extensions to fit space 52''-56'', 132- 142cm £20 ono Birkdale 01704-568606 or 07850-935406

HAUCK BUGGY sport lightweight buggy for sale.Black-red.VGC. Was spare. Skem.£10. Can email photo. 07547069067

BABY GATE lindham make, ideal for small child good condition only £10 01515316937

AVENT ITEMS Philips Avent electric steriliser & bottle warmer, plus bottles. All in good condition. £25. 01695 421902

MAMA TENS maternity unit. Natural pain relief for labour. Excellent condition. In original box with instruction booklet, storage bag & electrodes. £25. 01695 421902

BABY COT White baby cot,bought from Debenhams,used but still in good condition.£50.00. Pick up only, Lydiate 07889979220

MOTORING

ROOF RACK large roof rack bars for Saab 95 estate that go across the car £20 ono 01704 532648

WHEEL LOCK Disklock wheel lock as new £30 01704 872624

CAR TRAILER Erde 142 5'x3'6 in excellent as new condition stored in garage.Spare wheel,wheel lock and cargo net included Maghull £230 0151 5262502

ROOF RACK Heavy Duty, 1 metre x 2 metre £20 ono Birkdale 01704-568606 or 07850-935406

BRADLEY TRAILER Bradley 4 wheel trailer, 8ft 4 inch long-4ft 4inch wide inside the box measurements. Drop tailgate VGC £300 o.n.o 07870222874

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GOLF TROLLEY Powakaddy electric golf trolley in running order. Battery will require replacement. Charger inc. and two winter wheels £70 01695421338

POWER TRAINER Vibration Plate for Exercise, with Instruction Manual and Programme VGC. £30 10704 509867

GOLF TROLLEY Hippo trolley, wide wheels, as new,£15 01704 875561

TWO PIECE snooker cue VGC, rarely used £10 07855222552/ 07821417560

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

DARTBOARD CABINET and board. Full size. Good condition and quality. Two doors and internal chalkboard. Ideal club or home. £20 Southport 01704 553972

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TAKE FOUR REMY Martin wooden game in presentation box, £20 as new 01704 875561

DOLLS International costume £3 each 01704 214017

ROLLER SKATES White & pink in colour with light up wheels, ideal for roller disco. VGC. RRP £70, price £25. Burscough collection 01704891482

CHILD'S GAME TABLE Multi play free standing game table. Football, pool, push hockey and basket ball. Measurements to nearest inch, H30", L34",D23"- can be dismantled for storage. Good condition, buyer collects £30 01695573147

CHILD'S GUITAR Multi functional guitar with 5 different types of music, Reggae, R&B, Electro, etc. Uses two batteries, suit age 4+, ideal gift, excellent condition, buyer collects £15 01695573147

BRIAN ROBOT Confused dot com Talking toy..Brand new in box. £5.00 01704560627

WADDINGTONS SPYRING game - 1965 version. Never used. In original box with instructions. £8 07821417560/07855222552

LEGO DUPLO set 7790 with 39 assorted pieces in big yellow box £6 01704878473

VTECH SMILE MOTION Active Learning System. Console, wireless controller and two games Toy Story 3 and Cars. Suits age 3-6 yrs. £10 07752581516

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Announcements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SPENCER BRENDA

Anne, Gerry and family wish to express their sincere thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement. Also for the cards and donations to the Alzheimer's Society. Thanks to Dr Statham and the doctors and staff of Accident and Emergency at Southport Hospital. Thanks to Rev. Ian Jones and Rev. Brian Abraham for a comforting service and to Gary and all staff of Cookson Tyrer for funeral arrangements.

MOSS THELMA

Walter and Thelma's family would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives and friends for their support during this sad time, thank you also to those who attended her funeral and kindly donated to Parkinson's UK in lieu of flowers. Special thanks to Reverend Martin Abrams for his kind words of comfort and finally thank you to Derek Crawford at Howard's Funeral Directors for the kind and professional funeral arrangements.

RAWLINSON THOMAS

The family of the late Thomas Rawlinson wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness, messages of sympathy and donations to Parkinsons UK received during their recent sad loss. Thanks to Rev Phillipa Lee for her kind ministrations, support and memorable service, also to Hunters Funeral Directors for their sensitivity and help during the dignified funeral arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ALAN MARTIN

Alan's family would like to thank the host of people who attended the funeral.

Special thanks to John Milton for the caring and sincere service and to Newland and Wilkinson for their professionalism and for whom nothing was too much trouble.

DEATHS

DIXON MARGARET IRENE

15th November 2016
Passed away peacefully at Aughton Park Care Home, Aughton
Aged 101 years

Devoted Wife of the late George, much loved Mum of Ted & Lorraine, Irene & Mike (deceased) and Janet & Bob and devoted Nan to all her grand and great grandchildren. She will be truly missed by all her family. "God Bless, love and miss you always." Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 28th November 2016 at 10.40am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for MacMillan Cancer Support. All enquiries to H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 581769/720012

GIDLEY ALFRED

18th November 2016
Aged 81 years

Passed away peacefully at Queenscourt Hospice following a long illness. Much loved Husband of Valerie, Devoted Dad to Karen, Mike, Brian and Janet. Loving and proud Grandad to Matthew, Jacob, Rebecca and Emily. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and all who knew him. Funeral service at St Stephen's Parish Church, Banks on Tuesday 29th November at 1:00pm followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice and St Stephen's Parish Church. Please make cheques payable to the respective charities. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086

DEATHS

PRESTON KENNETH (KEN)

7th November 2016
Peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family
Aged 75 years

Loving Husband of May, Devoted Dad of Mark and Cheryl, Dear Father-in-law of Linda and Charlie, Cherished Grandad of Tom, Carl and Laura. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service took place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 21st November at 1.45pm. There were family flowers by request and donations are being gratefully received for Cancer Research UK All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

TIMSON PATRICK GEORGE

On 16th November 2016
Peacefully in The Spinney Nursing Home.
Aged 82 years.

Loving Husband of the late Joan, devoted Dad of Ged, Gray and Fran. Cherished Grandad of all his Grandchildren. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Requiem Mass will be held at St Teresas Church Upholland on Friday 2nd December at 10.00am followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for The Spinney Nursing Home. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

WILSON DORIS

Passed away peacefully
19th November 2016
Aged 91 years

Devoted Wife of the late Bill. Beloved Sister of the late Bill, Les, Steve and Stan. Much loved and deeply missed by Sisters-in-law Alice and Mary, Nephews and Nieces Neil, Janet, David and Linda, Great Nephews and Nieces Alasdair and Verity, Adam and William, Lisa, Ian and Neil. A dear friend of many at Johnsons and formerly of Delph Court. Funeral at Thornton Crematorium on 2nd December at 11am. Donations if desired to 'Age Concern Liverpool & Sefton' (Charity No 517902).

Announcements

Call the Classified Sales Team on **01704 392392** or check-out our website **www.champnews.com**

IN MEMORIAM

GRAY
JOAN
Nee Whiteside
NOV. 24th 2014

Another very lonely year has passed by

The wall is answering me back now Joan
Still love and miss you so very much.

R.I.P.
Joe and family

Place a classified ad **01704 392392**

IN MEMORIAM

BENYON
GEORGE
EDWARD
(TED)
Memorial
27th November 2015

No Hugs No Kisses
To say goodbye
When will my tears ever dry
Love and miss you
DAD
Carole & Simon
Grandsons & Great Grandchildren

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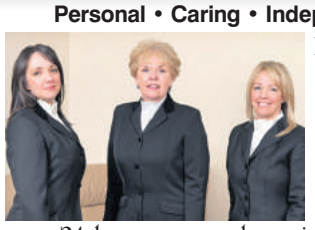

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18/11/16

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PUBLIC NOTICES

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

FWS Supplies Ltd of 2 Ringtail Place, Burscough Industrial Estate, Burscough L40 8LA is applying for a licence to use 2 Ringtail Place, Burscough Industrial Estate, L40 8LA as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Notice of application for Variation of Premises License

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Junk, 12 Church Street, Ormskirk L39 3AN have applied to West Lancashire Borough Council for a variation of Premises License, the following has been applied for:

The proposed variation is to change the licensed hours from 11.00 - 01.30 to 11.00 - 03.00 on Friday and Saturday (with no change, Sunday to Thursday). And to allow the screening of films from 14.00 - 02.00

This application can be inspected at West Lancashire Borough Council, Licensing Section, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 8EE, between the hours of 9.00am and 4.30pm on Monday to Friday inclusive. Brief details can also be obtained from the councils website: http://www.westlancsgov.uk/business/licensing.aspx
Any 'interested party' may make representations in writing to the Council regarding the application before the 07/12/2016. It is an offence, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and on summary conviction anyone doing so is liable to a fine of £5000.

MARY MAXWELL
(Previous name: Mary Veronica Burke)
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 37 LEOPOLD ROAD, BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS, LIVERPOOL L22 6QY, who died on 17/08/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 24/01/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Jeanne Colwell, 49 ALEXANDRA ROAD, CROSBY, LIVERPOOL L23 7TB.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(A506 LIVERPOOL ROAD, BICKERSTAFFE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of A506 Liverpool Road, from a point 40 metres south west of the property known as "Oakdene Cottage" to a point 150 metres south west of the property known as "Smithy Cottage" in the borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0900 hours on Thursday 24th November 2016 until 1700 hours to Friday 23rd December 2016 or, until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicles affected by the closure is as follows; A506 Liverpool Road – Long Lane – Parrs Lane – B5197 Prescot Road – A506 Liverpool Road and vice versa
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow essential new water main construction works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT16/08/5398/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(BROOKFIELD LANE, AUGHTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle, to proceed over that length of Brookfield Lane from its junction with Butchers Lane to a point 35 metres north of a point outside property number 100 Brookfield Lane in the borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 1700 hours on Friday 24th November 2016 until 1700 hours on Friday 24th February 2017, or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via: Butchers Lane - Springfield Road – Smithy Lane – Brookfield Lane and vice versa.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable essential works to new water main to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/16/08/5763/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(COBBS BROW LANE, NEWBURGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) (No.2) ORDER 2016
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle from proceeding over that length of Cobbs Brow Lane, Newburgh from its junction with Beacon Lane to its junction with Tabbys Nook in the Borough of West Lancashire.
An alternative route for all traffic affected by the closure is as follows: Beacon Lane – Higher Lane – A5209 Ash Brow – Cobbs Brow Lane and vice versa.
The temporary closure is necessary to enable essential highway maintenance works to be carried out.
The prohibition will be operative daily from 0700 hours until 1700 hours on Wednesday 23rd November 2016, and Thursday 24th November 2016, or until completion of the works within this period.
Authority given for this Order to be made: Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/16/8/5606/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(LAFFORD LANE, UP HOLLAND, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Lafford Lane, from a point outside the entrance to Holland Hall Hotel to a point outside the entrance to Dean Wood Golf Course in the borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0800 hours until 1600 hours on Monday November 2016 to Friday 9th December 2016 or, until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicles affected by the closure is as follows; Lafford Lane – A577 Grove Road – College Road – Stoney Brow – School Lane – Lafford Lane and vice versa
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow essential drainage and highway maintenance works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT16/08/5415/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(STATION ROAD, HESKETH WITH BECCONSALL, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Station Road, from its junction with Shore Road to its junction with Chapel Road, in the Borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0700 hours until 1700 hours on Friday 25th November 2016 until Wednesday 30th November 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Shore Road – Chapel Road - and vice versa.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow essential highways maintenance works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/16/08/5495/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
Application No: 2016/1046/FUL The proposal encompasses the removal of the existing car wash and replacement of the existing petrol filling station shop and forecourt with new at Petrol Filling Station, Briars Lane Garage (BP), 192 Briars Lane, Lathom.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
Application No: 2016/1079/FUL Agricultural livestock building for housing of cattle within an existing agricultural yard at Hellens Holme Farm, Black Moss Lane, Scarisbrick.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING
Application No: 2016/1089/FUL Extension and remodeling of domestic ancillary outbuilding - re-submission of 2016/0627/FUL at Malt Kiln Barn, Halsall Road, Halsall.
Application No: 2016/1095/FUL Single storey rear extension to existing shop premises at Branfresh, 23 Church Street, Ormskirk.
Application No: 2016/1097/FUL Variation of Condition No. 2 imposed on planning permission 2015/1168/FUL to vary the approved plans including relocation of the approved house within the site together with alterations to the approved access arrangements at 11 Granville Park, Aughton.
Application No: 2016/1179/FUL Variation of Condition No. 5 imposed on planning permission 2015/1230/FUL and 2015/1231/LBC to read: The garden wall shall be demolished and rebuilt in accordance with Drawing Ref CD05, prior to the occupation of the student accommodation at 5 Derby Street, Ormskirk.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.
John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 23rd November 2016
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT924

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The Porsche 944 now represents fantastic value for money compared to the Ford Capri

THEY'RE three loveable champions of everything we love about driving, and after an undeserved spell in the doldrums they're winning over just about anyone who gives them a try.

But I'm not talking about *The Grand Tour* – that's next week's issue, given that if I waited until *Top Gear's* second episode before calling a verdict the sporting thing would be to afford Amazon's car blockbuster the same courtesy. No, I'm on about the three performance hits that powered Porsche's bottom line right through the Eighties and early Nineties – the 924, 944 and 968.

You might have noticed that with it being 40 years since the 924's introduction they've had a rather high profile lately, particularly at Porsche's stand at the NEC Classic Motor Show a few weeks back. But the wider world hasn't noticed, because for what I can only put down to an overwhelming sense of collective nostalgia just about everyone would rather have a Ford Capri instead.

Which has left a bit of a weird scenario for anyone thinking of buying either. In Thatcher's Britain the faster, better engineered Porsche 944 cost comfortably more than Ford's finest Capri at the time, the 2.8 Injection. But flick through the classifieds these days and it's the reverse.

Fancy a 944 (and if you love cars, who wouldn't)? You're talking five grand for a decent 2.5-litre model or – if you're lucky – the wonderful S2 version. Hunt for a Capri 2.8 Injection – and you want the V6 to have Porsche-troubling performance – and it'll be at least eight grand for a good one, with the Brooklands and Tickford versions setting you back considerably more.

The only front-engined Porsches that have soared to the same level are the 944 Turbo and the raucous 968 Club Sport, both because they're hardcore driver favourites with cult followings.

I like the Ford Capri, but would I buy one over a 944? Surely a sports car honed for driving perfection by the same chaps behind the 911 is a better buy than a two-door throwback distantly related to the Cortina MkII and trading largely on its Bodie and Doyle connections? While the rest of the world spends increasingly silly amounts of money on the Capri I'd urge you to get behind the wheel of the Porsche 944 while it's still affordable. It's already starting to go up in price, but unlike the Capri it's been undervalued for years and is the now the sort of bargain you'd normally find clogging up chilly high streets in January. It won't be long before everyone else cottons on.

Just think – you could use the three grand saving on a Capri to watch *The Grand Tour* for about the next twenty years.

David is editor of Classic Car Weekly

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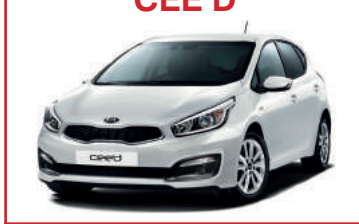

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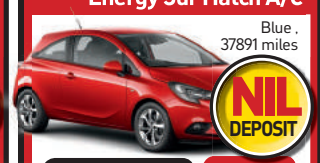

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Silver, 21877 miles

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60 REG CITROEN C3 VTR+, SILVER, 22829 MILES £4499
63 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR HAT 1.0 12V ENERGY ECOFLEX, WHITE, 13101 MILES £5496
09 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 4DR SAL 2.0CDTI 160 SE, TECHNICAL GREY, 64156 MILES £5499
62 REG PEUGEOT 208 ACTIVE HDI, SILVER, 26897 MILES £5499
60 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 5DR HAT 2.0CDTI 130 EXCLUSIV, SILVER, 58659 MILES £5799
62 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR HAT 1.2I 16V ACTIVE A/C, LIME GREEN, 10781 MILES £5999
11 REG FORD FOCUS ZETEC 105, BLACK, 69932 MILES £5999
61 REG SEAT IBIZA SE COPA TSI S-A, GREY, 24723 MILES £5999
14 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR HAT 1.2I ENERGY A/C, LIME GREEN, 21132 MILES £5999
63 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR HAT 1.4I VVT ENERGY A/C, PEPPER DUST, 23014 MILES £5999
63 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR HAT 1.3CDTI 75PS SXI A/C EFX, BLACK, 41949 MILES £6799
63 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR HAT 1.4 SRI A/C, RED, 40900 MILES £6999
62 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.4I VVT 100PS ACTIVE, SOVEREIGN SILVER, 8178 MILES £7299
63 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.4I VVT 100PS ENERGY, SOVEREIGN SILVER, 13911 MILES £7496
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16 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR HAT 1.4 90PS SRI ECOFLEX, GREY, 13251 MILES £8999
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16 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR HAT 1.4 90PS SRI ECOFLEX, BLACK, 10797 MILES £9499
15 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA SP/TR 2.0CDTI 165PS TECH LINE S/S, SILVER, 37844 MILES £9899
16 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR HAT 1.0T 115PS LIMITED EDITION, CARBON FLASH, 1913 MILES £10496
15 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA HAT 2.0CDTI 163 DESIGN AU, CARBON FLASH, 34436 MILES £10664
63 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA HAT 5DR 1.6 115PS EXCLUSIV ST/SP, SOVEREIGN SILVER, 12926 MILES £10796
15 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA HAT 2.0CDTI 140 SE EFX, BLACK, 30598 MILES £10994
15 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA HAT 5DR 1.6 115PS TECH LINE ST/SP, WHITE, 19239 MILES £10999
14 REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA TOURER 2.0 CDTI 165 SE, RED, 34568 MILES £11699
16 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 5DR HAT 1.8I SRI NAV, OLYMPIC WHITE, 5949 MILES £11984
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64 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA HAT 5DR 1.4 140 TBO TECH LINE S/S, CARBON FLASH, 8704 MILES £12499
15 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA HAT 2.0CDTI 163 ELITE NAV AU, SOVEREIGN SILVER, 31429 MILES £12799
65 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.6CDTI 136PS SRI ECOFLX ST/SP, SUMMIT WHITE, 10310 MILES £12996
15 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA HAT 2.0CDTI 140 SRI VX-LINE EFX, WHITE, 35132 MILES £12999
65 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.0T 105PS SRI EFX ST/SP, RED, 6117 MILES £12999
16 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.0T 105PS SRI NAV EFX ST/SP, WHITE, 11950 MILES £13299
15 REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA TOURER 1.6 CDTI 136 SRI EFX S/S, RED, 33718 MILES £13499
65 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA HAT 5DR 1.6 CDTI 136 TECH LINE S/S, VELVET RED, 2649 MILES £13999

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63 REG SUZUKI SPLASH SZ3, BLUE, 44112 MILES £4999
12 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR HAT 1.2I 16V ACTIVE A/C, LIME GREEN, 21374 MILES £5999
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63 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE CDTI S/S, WHITE, 44493 MILES £8496
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65 REG FORD FIESTA ZETEC, WHITE, 13776 MILES £8499
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63 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE CDTI S/S, BLUE, 15210 MILES £8996
65 REG VAUXHALL CORSA SE AUTO, GREY, 12148 MILES £8999
63 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI CDTI S/S, WHITE, 18543 MILES £8999
14 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SR NAV CDTI ECO, RED, 56511 MILES £9696
63 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA HAT 5DR 1.7 CDTI 130PS XCLSIV S/S, BLUE, 30394 MILES £9999
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64 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA TECH LINE S/S, BLUE, 15127 MILES £10496
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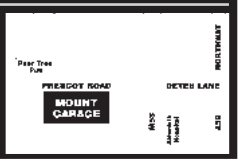

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51 BMW 530SE DIESEL ESTATE, orient blue, auto, PAS, e/w, c/locking, A/C, alloys, service history, sat nav **£2,295**

09 SKODA FABIA 1.4 TDi DIESEL 5spd, champagne metallic, PAS, E/W, c/locking, CD, s/history, 63,000 miles, £30 a year tax..... **£3,495**

60 BMW 320i 6spd EXCLUSIVE EDITION, black, dakota leather, sat nav, phone prep, cruise, climate, ABS, folding mirrors, 18" alloys, 37,000 miles only, service history, stunning..... **£8,995**

58 FIAT 500 1.2 LOUNGE BIANCO, white, PAS, E/W, central locking, A/C, alloys, pan roof, 40,000 miles, service history **£4,950**

03 MERCEDES SLK 200K AUTO CONVERTIBLE, met silver, PAS, E/W, central locking, alloys, full history, superb throughout **£4,495**

07 HYUNDAI COUPE, met blue, PAS, E/W, central locking, half leather, CD, alloys, A/C..... **£2,895**

07 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 5DR 1.2, 5spd, met silver, PAS, E/W, central locking, CD, service history, 60,000 miles..... **£2,995**

05 TOYOTA YARIS 3DR T3 1.0 5spd, red, PAS, e/w, c/l, service history, low insurance..... **£1,995**

4x4's

06 MITSUBISHI SPORT 2.8 TD 4WORK, met silver, PAS, E/W, central locking, alloys, well maintained..... **£2,950**

01 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 1.8 3DR, petrol, met gold, PAS, E/W, central locking, rear cam, alloys..... **£1,295**

04 RENAULT SCENIC MPV 1.6, met silver, PAS, E/W, central locking, A/C, alloys, service history, low mileage..... **£1,495**

00 W VW GOLF CONVERTIBLE 1600 6spd, met black, PAS, E/W, central locking, power hood, alloys, lady owned..... **£1,450**

R BMW 525 TDI DIESEL ESTATE, met silver, leather, PAS, E/W, c/locking alloys, s/history..... **£995**

R SAAB 9-5 SE 2.0 5spd, PAS, E/W, S/H, ABS, leather..... **£695**

VANS

60 PEUGEOT PARTNER 1.6 HDI 5SPD, blue, PAS, c/locking, ABS E/W, CD, ABS..... **£3,250+VAT**

10 FORD TRANSIT 330 FWD, MWD, med roof, 2.2, 6spd, A/C, ABS, E/W, CD, 1 owner, roof rack, service history..... **£5,400+VAT**

07 TRANSIT 300 FWD SWB 2.2 DIESEL 5spd, white, 1 owner, 64,000 miles, twin side doors..... **£3,950+VAT**

56 VAUXHALL VIVARO CDTI 1.9, 6spd, white, PAS, remote locking, 1 owner, service history..... **£3,450+VAT**

56 VAUXHALL COMBO 1700 1.3 CDTi 5spd, white, PAS, remote locking, CD, 1 owner, service history, 70,000 miles..... **£2,250+VAT**

56 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.7 CDTI 5spd, white, PAS, central locking, CD, high miles..... **£1,495 NO VAT**

06 VAUXHALL VIVARO 2.9 T DIESEL CDTI, white, 84,000 miles, central locking, ABS, twin side loading doors..... **£2,950+VAT**

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Linnets anchored to bottom of table after home defeat

Burscough 0
Colwyn Bay 3

BURSCOUGH remain bottom of the table after conceding three at home.

The Linnets were up against Colwyn Bay, who hadn't won a match in their last seven fixtures, but came away with all three points.

The away side opened the scoring on 27 minutes when Jack Phillips cut in from the left and fired a stunning effort into the top corner from 25 yards out.

They doubled their lead midday through the second half when Louis Corrigan fired in from close range.

All three points were wrapped up in added time when Danny Andrews found the net against the run of play.

Next up for Burscough is a trip to Kendal Town on Saturday.

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Benito could be latest of Lawson's players to be Football League bound

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

SKELMERSDALE midfielder Benito Lowe could be the latest youngster to make the step up to the Football League with rumoured interest from both Portsmouth and Fleetwood Town.

The talented 18-year-old midfielder has flourished under manager Tommy Lawson, who will be worried at the prospect of losing him but also pleased for his future.

Benito was with Sheffield United's academy before being released and joining Curzon Ashton where he didn't get the opportunities he hoped.

Lawson snapped him up during the summer and he has flourished under Lawson's tutelage.

If Benito moved on to a Football League club he would be the second player in three months to make the same move and the fourth in three years.

It was only in September that young midfielder Tony Donaldson joined Doncaster Rovers and 18 months ago Ben Tollitt went to Portsmouth, where he has made 12 league appearances scoring one league goal.

When asked about the prospects of a move Tommy Lawson said: "Naturally I don't want to lose my most promising players, but it is great to see players we have developed here at Skem go on to make full-time professionals in the Football League.

"It gives the staff and the players a big motivation to see them do well and to think they were at Skem and we helped them get their" Skelmersdale are away to Grantham Town on Saturday, November 26, a fixture that replaces a home game against Blyth Spartans that will be rearranged.

Skelmersdale play Frickley next week when the West Yorkshiremen visit the Uretek Stadium on Tuesday, November 30 for a 7.45pm kick off. Last night's scheduled league match at Frickley was postponed.

Trials for the Skelmersdale United Academy take place on Thursday, November 24 at Stormy Corner at 6pm. For more information, call 07879 994 718.

Benito Lowe

Tony Donaldson in action for Skem.

West Lancashire Boys are champions of Lancashire

WEST Lancashire District Boys Under 11's football team are the Lancashire seven a side champions for 2016/17.

The group is made up of players from schools right across West Lancashire and this is the first time they have won the seven a side competition.

They competed against district teams from Preston, Lancaster, Blackburn, Pendle and Burnley, beating Burnley in the final on penalties as neither side could find the breakthrough goal.

A spokesman for the team said: "The boys should be extremely proud of their efforts as a team. The player of the tournament on the day was Adam H."

The West Lancashire District Boys Under 11's football team

Football teams welcome to join five-a-side league

ENTHUSIASTIC footballers can take up five-a-side matches in Ormskirk on week nights.

The leagues, are run by Football Evolution at St Bede's Catholic School on Monday and Wednesday nights.

They are suitable for all levels of skill and casual or corporate teams are welcome to play. James Proctor, one of the organisers said: "With kick-offs to suit, referees and match balls provided and all the leagues tables updated the next day on the website.

"All you need to do is turn up and play!"

For more information contact James on 07794 597907 or visit www.football-evolution.co.uk

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ORMSKIRK & WEST LANCASHIRE Champion

23 November 2016 Vol 23 • Issue 47 www.champnews.com

This week's Champion is inside ...

ADVERTISMENT

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOUR HEARING AND THE HEALTH OF YOUR EARS AT THIS SPECIAL EXHIBITION

Meet the hearing experts at the ClearChoice Special Exhibition

With so much choice and different fitting options available in the hearing aid market, how can you be sure you are making the right choice for you?

THE ClearChoice Special Exhibitions unites leading hearing aid experts in your local area for an event dedicated to those with hearing concerns.

This is an ideal opportunity for anyone to take advantage of a **FREE Hearing Test**, plus our **Video Otoscope** technology - which gives you the opportunity to see what's going on inside your ear via colour monitor. You can also see and try new hearing aid technology with live demonstrations of your ideal sounding hearing aid and benefit from friendly and professional advice on improved hearing. Whether you have questions about how to care for your ears, you're worried that earwax may be affecting you or you'd like to find out how good or bad your hearing is then this event is the simplest way to find out.

Tiny hearing aids. Huge benefits.

Our Invisible hearing aids fit completely inside the ear canal, people will never know you are using a hearing aid.

Benefits include:

- Leaves no visible trace of wearing a hearing aid
- Collects sound in a more natural way
- Works perfectly with phones
- Can be custom designed to your specific needs
- Suitable for most types of hearing loss

Ask about our 2 for 1 Pensioner Special Offer

Buy one get one free on tiny digital hearing aids during our Exhibition.

We will be holding our ClearChoice Special Exhibition at these venues in your area...

Wednesday 7th & Thursday 8th December
Brookside Retirement Village
AUGHTON STREET, ORMSKIRK L39 3BP

Friday 9th December
St John The Baptist Church Hall (at back of church)
SCHOOL LANE ENTRANCE, BURSCOUGH L40 4AE

Book a FREE hearing assessment at one of our Exhibition venues today on

0800 032 7697

ADVERTISMENT

ClearChoice - Independent sound advice you can trust

Which? Best hearing aid provider overview

Following an extensive survey and the views of over 400 **Which?** members who had purchased hearing aids in the last 3 years, independent retailers came out top with a **customer score of 84%**. This score was based on customer satisfaction and recommendation which included levels of service and aftercare.

Are we qualified?

BSHAA British Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists

Our Audiologists hold advanced degrees from accredited universities and have special training in the identification, assessment and non-medical treatment of hearing disorders. They complete a full-time internship, pass a demanding national examination and must be fully licensed. This makes our Audiologists the most qualified to advise you on your hearing.

How long have we been helping people with hearing difficulties?

We have 35 years experience and have fitted over ten thousand digital hearing instruments. An audiologist who has fitted thousands of patients is more likely to recognise and solve problems. Fitting hearing aids correctly is **both** an art and a science. Our Audiologists will maximise the potential of your hearing instruments by using all of the features of your ideal aid, while the less skilled might fail to activate up to 50% of the hearing aid's capabilities.

How will you determine what is best for my hearing situation?

Our Audiologist will take a detailed history of your hearing problem, your expectations, and lifestyle. In addition a thorough tone and speech testing assessment will be carried out. Measurements for comfortable hearing levels are also tested.

Our comprehensive testing is to improve your hearing sensibility and re-establish normal hearing perception.

Are there any hearing aid manufacturers you recommend?

As Independent Audiologists, we work with all the hearing aid manufacturers from around the world. Every hearing loss is unique and one manufacturer product line may not meet the needs of everyone! As we work with the world's choice, we are in the best position possible to select the correct device that will match your needs.

The amazing video otoscope

Let's show you what's happening inside...

Our state-of-the-art video otoscope system can show inside your ear canal right up to your ear drum, all visible on the colour screen.

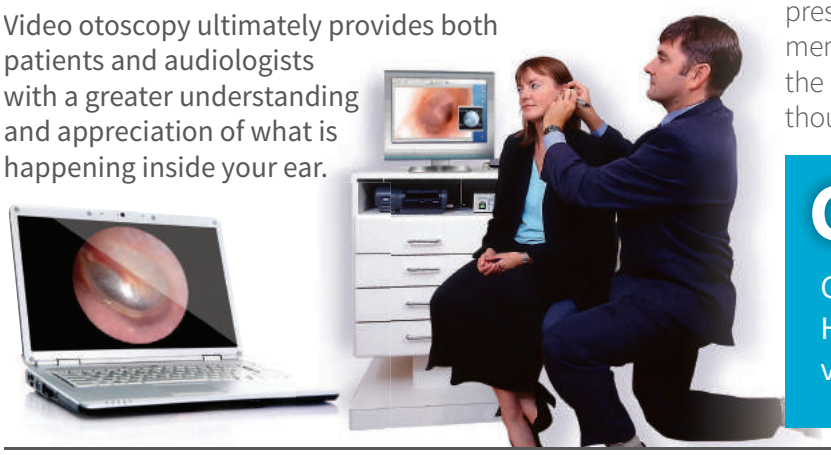
See inside your ear like never before, with no discomfort whatsoever!

Video otoscopy allows us to clearly visualise the ear canal and ear drum by projecting an image onto a computer monitor.

Using video otoscopy, we can see first hand any conditions such as the presence or build up of wax, or debris in the canal that may cause problems with your hearing.

Give your ears a clean bill of health!

Video otoscopy ultimately provides both patients and audiologists with a greater understanding and appreciation of what is happening inside your ear.



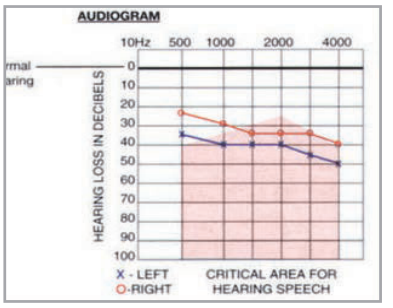
Our **free Audiometric Test** will help us identify your hearing difficulties

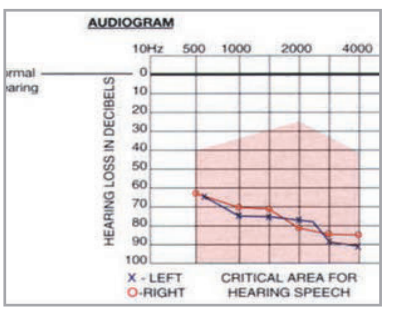
If you want to know more about how better hearing can be achieved - your local Hearing Aid Audiological experts will give you the best advice FREE. There is never any obligation and all the valuable information is available to you.

FREE AUDIOMETRIC TEST

Following a discussion on the history of your hearing and a brief ear examination, our Hearing Aid Audiologist will carry out a free comprehensive hearing test. You are asked to respond to a variety of frequencies which allow the Hearing Aid Audiologist to plot your results on a graph. With the results explained, the test is over... it's as simple as that!

We often find it is a great help when testing your hearing to have a familiar voice with you. Part of our full hearing assessment is to present speech in what is called a Speech Clarity Test. A family member or close friend is ideal and they are free to help you with the hearing test as well as ask questions which you may not have thought of yourself.


AUDIOGRAM
10Hz 500 1000 2000 4000
HEARING LOSS IN DECIBELS
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
X - LEFT
O-RIGHT
CRITICAL AREA FOR HEARING SPEECH


AUDIOGRAM
10Hz 500 1000 2000 4000
HEARING LOSS IN DECIBELS
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
X - LEFT
O-RIGHT
CRITICAL AREA FOR HEARING SPEECH

ClearChoice Special Offer

Claim your **FREE Exhibition gift** - book your FREE Hearing Test at one of the ClearChoice Exhibition venues. **See back page for details.**

Book your hearing test at one of our Exhibition venues today on FREEPHONE 0800 032 7697

ADVERTISMENT

Clearer hearing at the **lowest prices**

Want to hear natural sound? Our new CLEAR hearing aid family lets you hear as close to natural sound as possible.

CLEAR hearing aids can communicate wirelessly with each other - just like two ears do. This means that all the functions in your hearing aids are adjusted instantly depending on your listening environment. Meaning that even when soft sounds change to louder sounds, you still hear with clarity.

CLEAR also meets the challenge of hearing from different directions. It is the only Widex hearing aid that lets you focus on sound in selected directions without turning your head - perfect if you're driving, for example.

And combined with a unique range of wireless accessories, some of the more difficult listening situations, such as watching television, listening to music or using your mobile phone, are made easier.

Ask us to demonstrate the new Widex Unique range allowing you to hear both soft and loud sounds in comfort. It detects your listening situation automatically and makes sure you hear the right sound at the right time in the right place. **A unique hearing loss NEEDS a unique solution.**

This may be all you need!

- **Discreet design**
- **No hard to use buttons or dials**
- **Comfortable to wear and easy to use**

The best just got **smaller**.

The **SoundLens 2** from **Starkey** offers a smaller, next generation design to offer an invisible solution to more patients than ever before. Tiny but powerful, these advanced instruments are loaded with the latest features and advanced technology giving clearer speech clarity even in background noise.

Because the **ClearChoice** Exhibitions are totally independent, we are able to offer our clients the latest technology from leading manufacturers like Siemens, Puretone, GN ReSound, Widex, Starkey and many more.

Pure tone · WIDEX high definition hearing · oticon PEOPLE FIRST · SIEMENS · ReSound rediscover hearing · Starkey

Clearchoice made simple

It is important to remember that we are all individual and so require individual needs. The ClearChoice Exhibition gives you the opportunity to learn more about your hearing loss and the various options that are available to your particular requirements in order to make your choice as clear and simple as possible. This is due to our vast experience and extensive range of hearing aids available on the market.

We always ensure that your better hearing selection is comfortable to wear and easy to use.

The single solution to improved vision and hearing

A range of stylish frames that contain a digital hearing aid

Wearing spectacles with hearing aids can be uncomfortable and awkward. Some people also find it irritating and unnatural to have a hearing aid in their ear.

The ideal solution to these problems may be spectacle hearing aids. Change your personal glasses into a hearing system for an individual, discreet, comfortable solution.

Ask about our range of spectacle hearing aids including live demonstrations at our ClearChoice Event.

How ClearChoice Exhibition Events benefit our customers

We are delighted to be of service to local residents

"My wife kept telling me to have my hearing checked, so we went together to my local Exhibition. I returned home with a full understanding of my hearing problem and I've not stopped wearing my hearing aids since."

"The aids which I had fitted at the ClearChoice Exhibition are so small and neat that nobody has even noticed that I'm wearing them. The best thing is that I am hearing much clearer even in company."

"I have been taking my dad to ClearChoice for several years for his aftercare service and he loves them!
The Audiologists make him feel comfortable and he always hears much clearer after his visit."

35 years expertise

Book your hearing test at one of our Exhibition venues today on FREEPHONE 0800 032 7697

ADVERTISMENT

FREE digital hearing aids*

for all over 55s during this Special Event

Book an appointment at our **ClearChoice** Special Exhibition and receive the following **FREE**!

- **Free Hearing Test & hearing health consultation**
- **Live demonstration of your ideal hearing aid**
- **FREE GIFT (with your free hearing test)**
- **Expert advice (on all types of hearing problems)**
- **Wax Removal Clinic with our qualified nurse**
- **Hearing aid servicing**
- **Complimentary tea or coffee in Brookes Bistro**
- **Home visit hearing tests are available 7 days a week** (please call for more details)

ALL WITHOUT ANY OBLIGATION!

* Buy one, get one free available on selected products.
Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion.

Ask about our **2 for 1 Pensioner Special Offer**

To book your place at the venue of your choice, call FREEPHONE

0800 032 7697

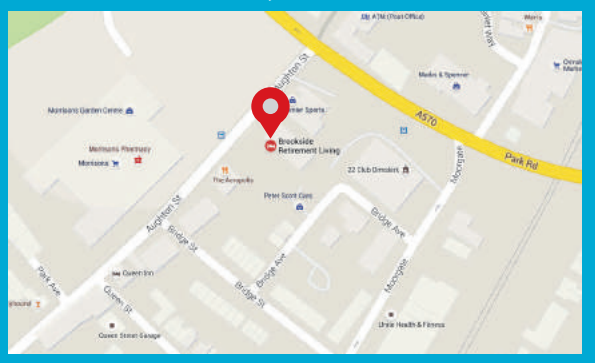
Lines open 9am - 8pm

We will be holding our ClearChoice Special Exhibition at these venues in your area...

Wednesday 7th & Thursday 8th December

Brookside Retirement Village

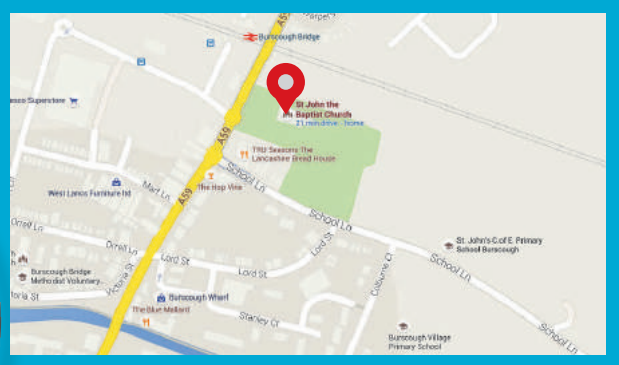
AUGHTON STREET, ORMSKIRK L39 3BP



Friday 9th December

St John The Baptist Church Hall (at back of church)

SCHOOL LANE ENTRANCE, BURSCOUGH L40 4AE



ClearChoice Special Offer

To claim your free gift, book your FREE Hearing Test at one of our ClearChoice Special Exhibition venues

Two main concerns people with hearing difficulties have are being unable to hear and understand speech on the TV and whilst on the phone.

- *Loop System provision*
- *Increased amplification allowing you to hear even the softest of voices clearly*
- *Even the ringtone has volume control*
- *Allows you to hear speech even when there are annoying background sounds*
- *Comfortable, wireless headset*

Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion.

FREE Geemarc PhotoPhone 100 Amplified Telephone RRP - £44.99

Book a FREE hearing assessment at one of our Exhibition venues today on

0800 032 7697

As the ClearChoice Exhibitions have proven to be very popular with local residents, we recommend you call quickly to avoid disappointment.
(Home visits are also available upon request.)

ClearChoice Hearing Exhibitions. **HEAD OFFICE:** 69 Clifton Street, Lytham St Annes, FY8 5ER.